



An Overview of National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM)

Royal Government of Bhutan

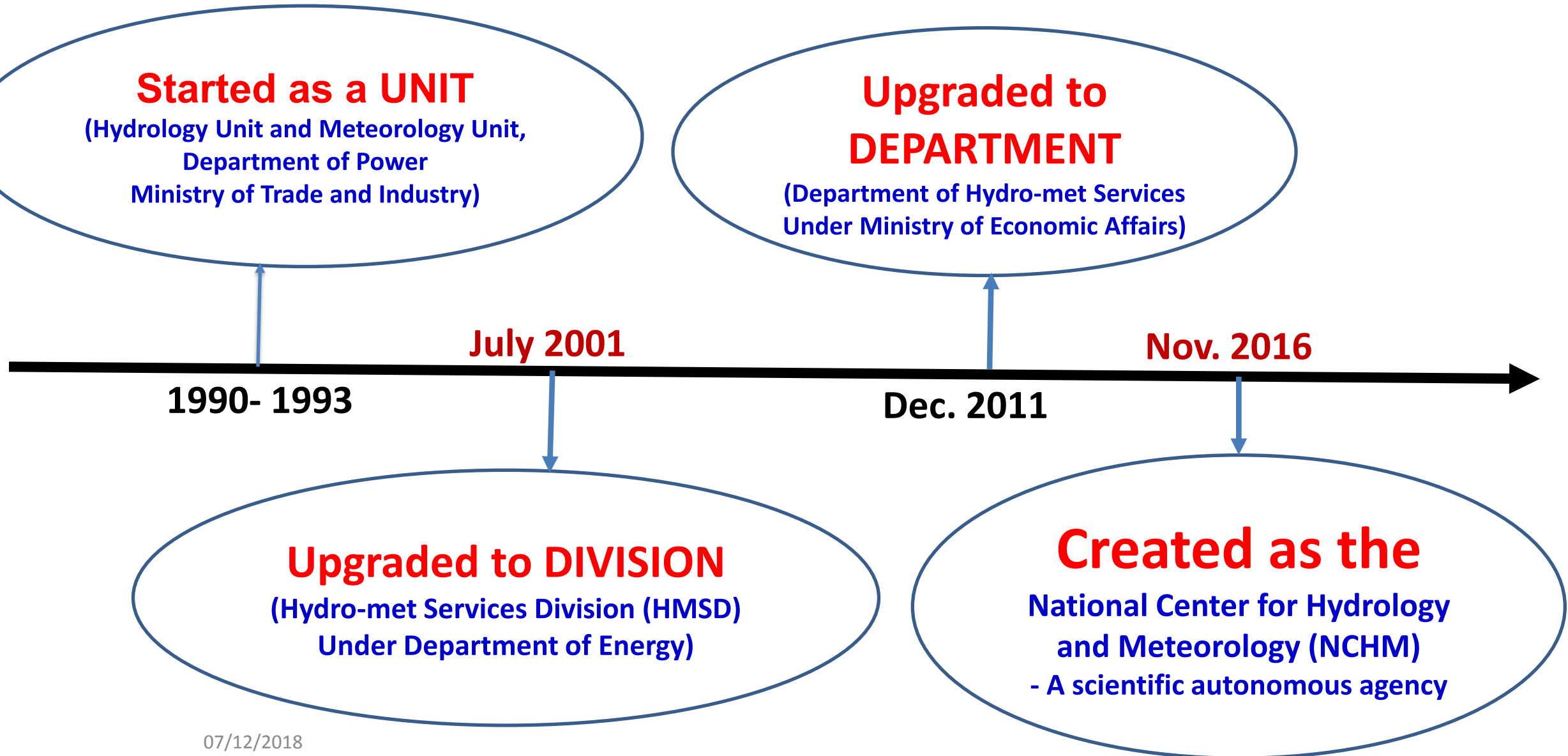
www.nchm.gov.bt



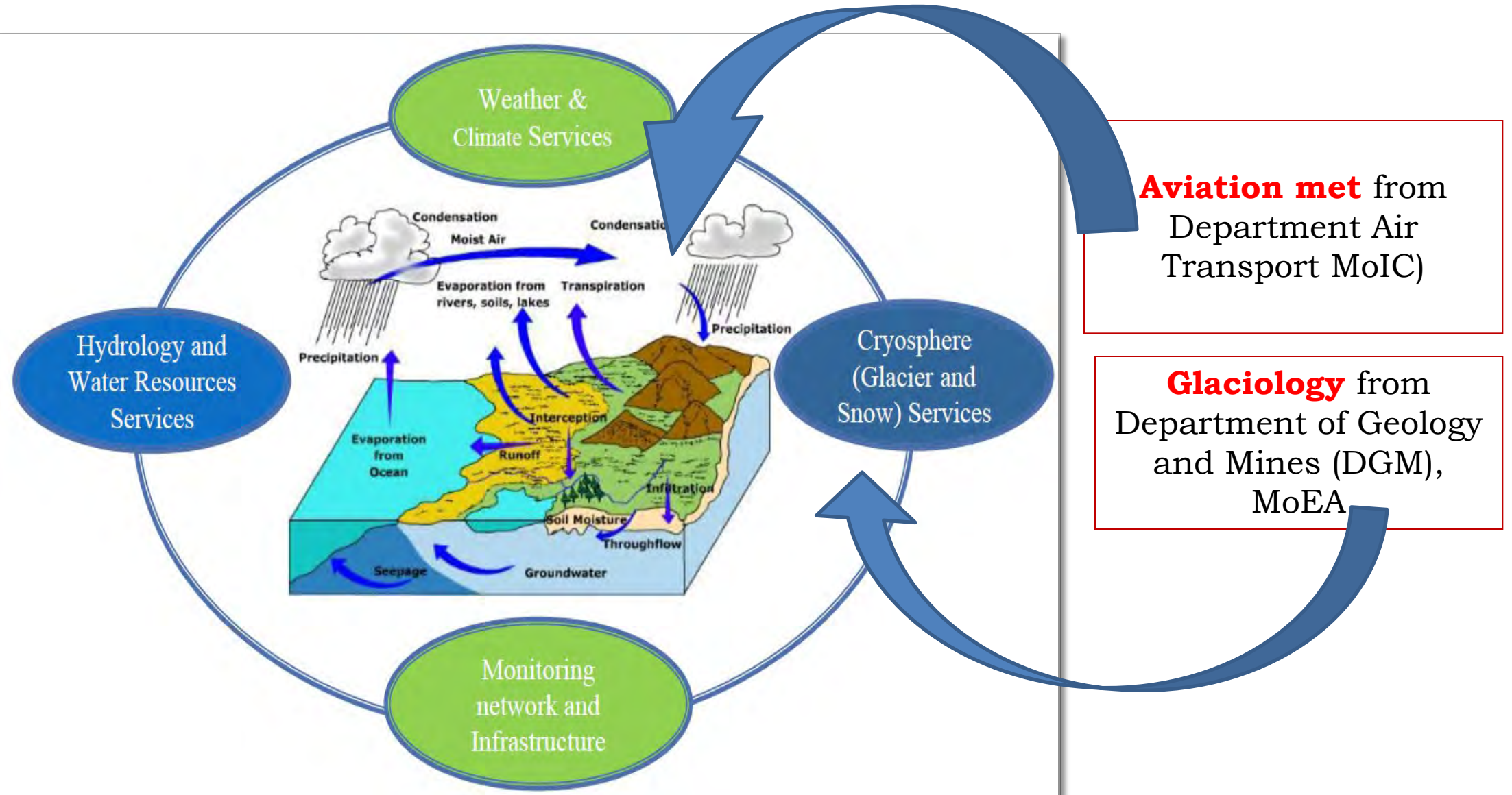
Presentation Outline

- Background and Services
- Hazards and vulnerability
- Challenges
- Hydro met Modernization Plans
- Linkage with FYP

Institutional Development of **Hydro-met Services** in Bhutan



National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM)





National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM)

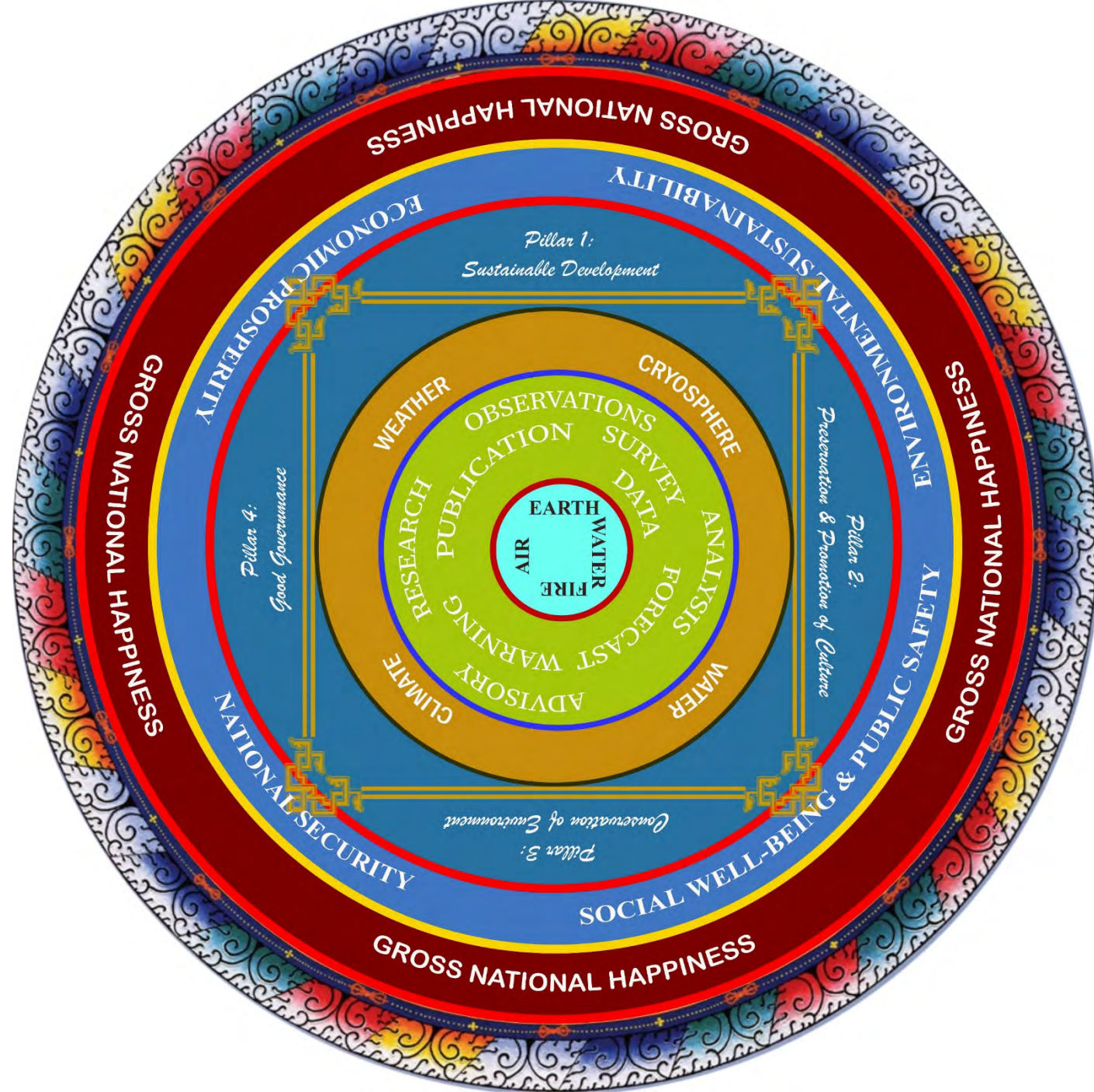
Mandate

MANDATE

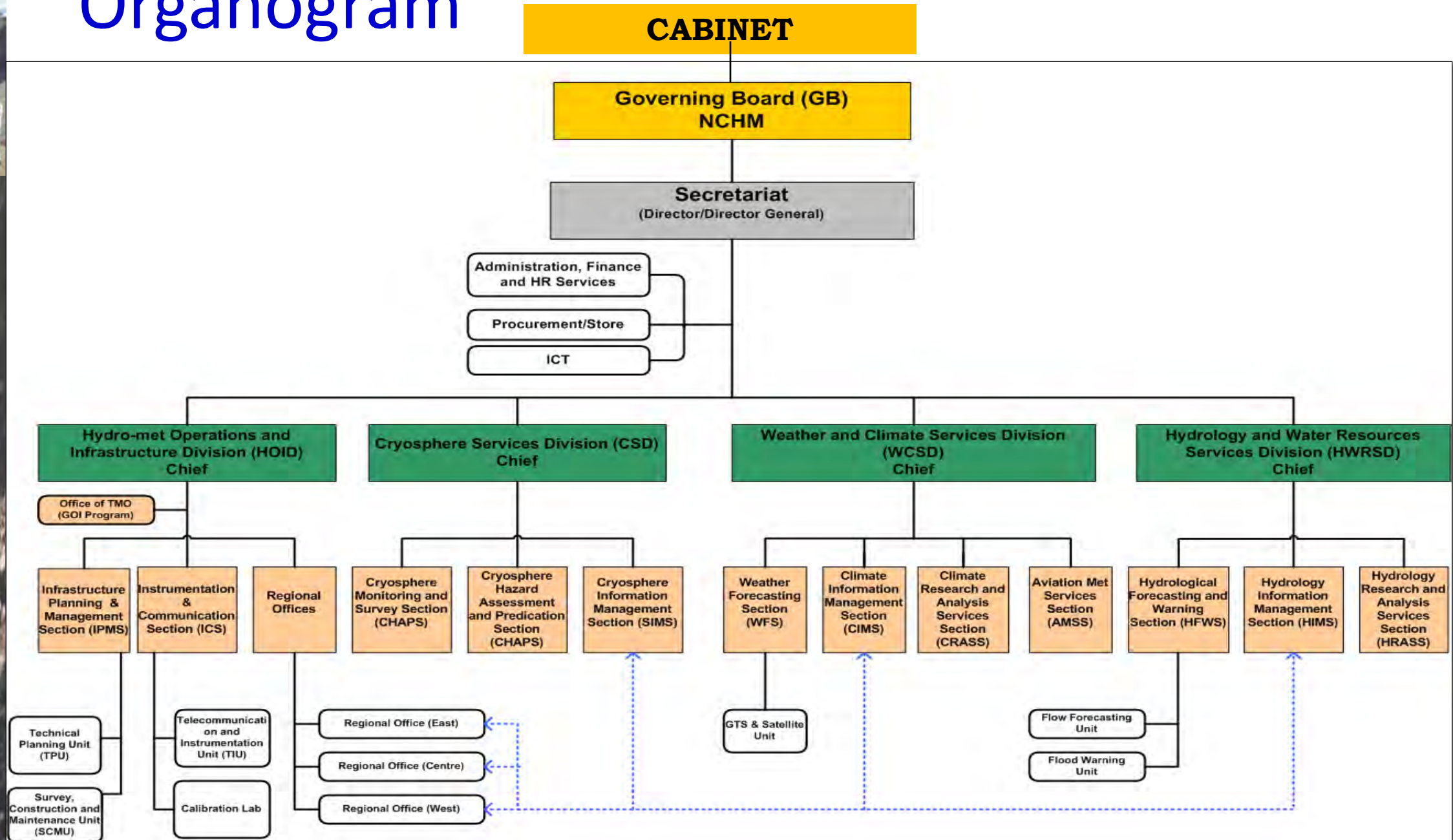
An autonomous scientific/technical agency to
“Provide scientific and technological services in hydrology, water resources, meteorology, climatology, and cryosphere to ensure the safety and socio-economic well-being of people and to support national and international needs”.

MISSION

Monitoring and understanding of hydrology, weather, climate and cryosphere, for timely provision of information and services to protect lives and property and support national needs for ecologically balanced sustainable development.



Organogram

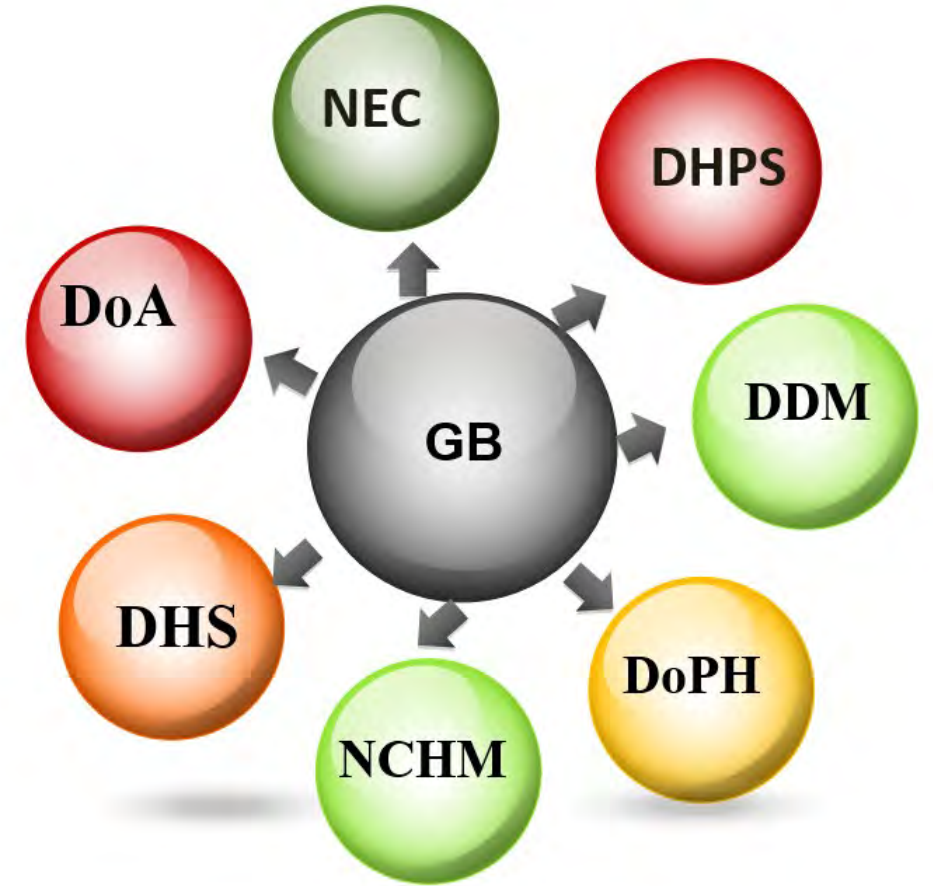


Governance of NCHM

The Center is governed by a Governing Board (GB) with its members from nominated from the relevant sectors approved by the Cabinet.

GB composition:

1. National Environment Commission (NEC);
2. Department of Hydro Power and Power Systems (DHPS), MoEA;
3. Department of Disaster Management (DDM), MoHCA;
4. Department of Public Health (DoPH), MoH;
5. Department of Human Settlement (DHS), MoWHS;
6. Department of Agriculture (DoA), MoAF; and
7. National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM)





Core Functions

1

Monitoring and Observation of weather, water and climatic conditions

2

Public Weather Services (PWS)

3

Early Warning Services (Rainstorm and GLOF)

4

Climate Services (Historical, forecasting, Predictions, Projections,climatology)

5

Agrometeorological Services



Core Functions.....

6

Aviation Meteorological Services

7

Hydrology and Water Resource Services (Flow and Flood forecasting, Water Resource Assessments)

8

Monitoring of Snow, Glaciers and Glacial lakes

9

Advisories and bulletins of extreme events (Cyclone, Wind storm etc..)

10

Provision of high quality climate and hydrology data



Core Functions

11

Sector specific services (Health, Renewable energy, Transport, Tourism, Engineering stc..)

12

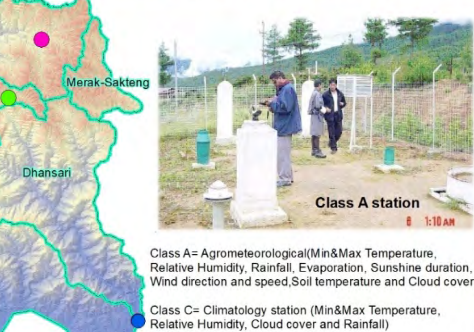
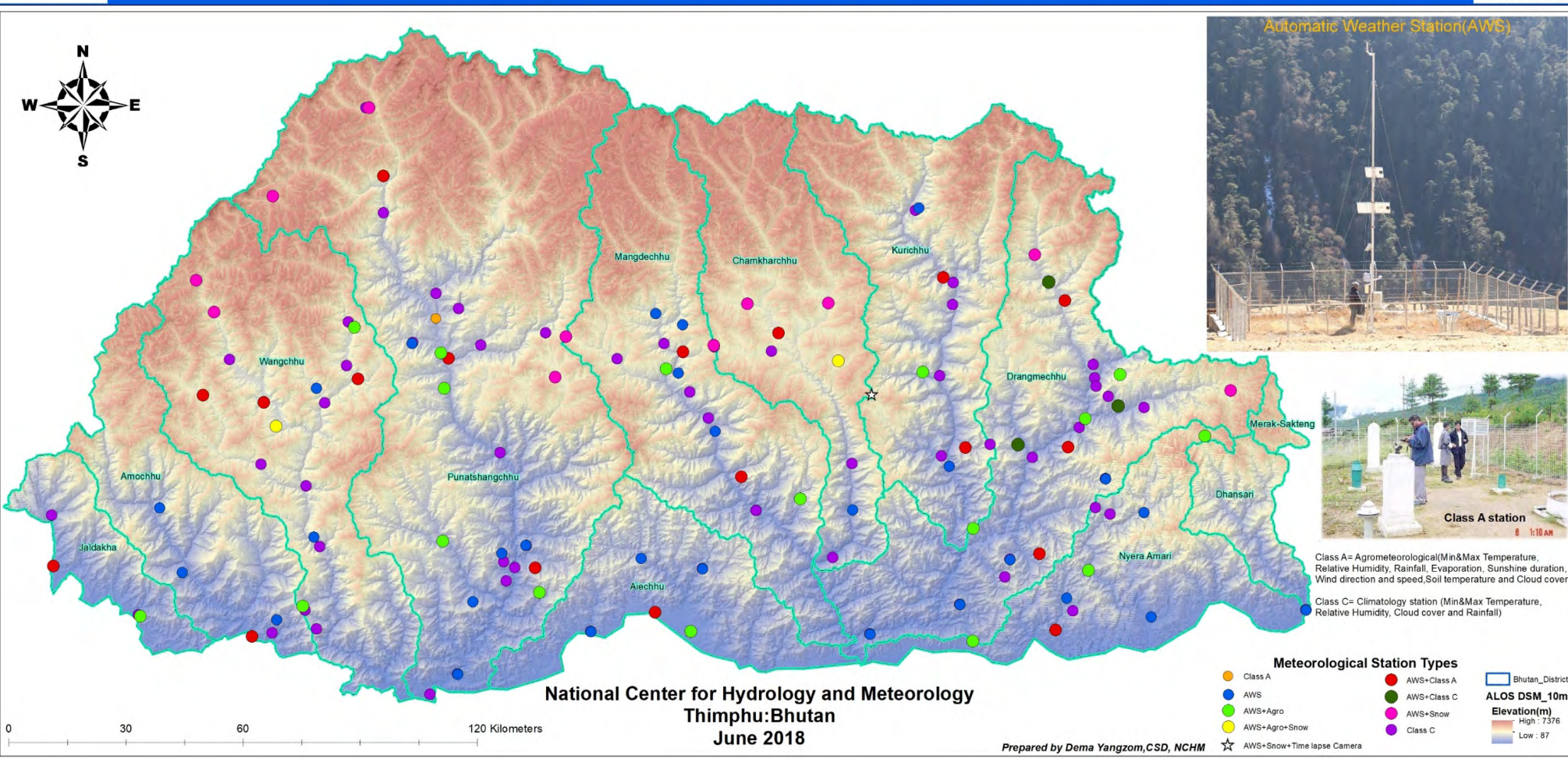
Research and Development Services (R &D)

12

Information systems and ICT



Meteorological Observation Station



Class A = Agrometeorological (Min&Max Temperature, Relative Humidity, Rainfall, Evaporation, Sunshine duration, Wind direction and speed, Soil temperature and Cloud cover)

Class C = Climatology station (Min&Max Temperature, Relative Humidity, Cloud cover and Rainfall)

- **155 Climate Station**
 - 20 Class A
 - 73 Class C
 - 62 AWS
- **20 Cryosphere Observation Stations**
 - 2 Long term Glacier Mass balance site
 - 4 Automatic Snow Station
 - 14 Manual Station

Bumthang Dzongkha Chamkhar Class A+AWS Gyetsa Class C Laya AWS+Agro+Snow+Class C Dhur AWS+Snow Tang AWS+Snow Yotong La AWS+Snow	Gasa Dzongkha Gasakhaty Class A Laya Class C Laya AWS+Snow Damji Class C
Chhukha Dzongkha Chagocha Class A Chhukha Class C Gaedu Class C Gaedu College AWS+Agro Malbase AWS+Class C Phuentsholing Class A Tala Class C Kamji AWS Tsimsham AWS	Haa Dzongkha Haa Class A Dorithasa AWS
Chhukha Dzongkha Chagocha Class A Chhukha Class C Gaedu Class C Gaedu College AWS+Agro Malbase AWS+Class C Phuentsholing Class A Tala Class C Kamji AWS Tsimsham AWS	Lhuntshe Dzongkha Tangmochu Class A Auteho Class C Dungtha Class C Dungthar AWS Ladung AWS+Agro Sumpka Class C Tangmochu Class C
Dagana Dzongkha Dagana Class A Druegang Class C Kerabari Class C Lhamozingkha Class A+AWS Sunkosha Class C Tashithang Class C+AWS	Punakha Dzongkha Korika Class C Lingmethang Class C Mongar Class A Sangdringha Class C Shagana Class C Ranjar Class C Serichu Class C Thimleygang AWS Yotong La Class C Gyelpozhing AWS Jumjey AWS+Agro Thrimshing La AWS+Snow+Camera Yadhi AWS

Mongar Dzongkha Korika Class C Lingmethang Class C Mongar Class A Sangdringha Class C Shagana Class C Ranjar Class C Serichu Class C Thimleygang AWS Yotong La Class C Gyelpozhing AWS Jumjey AWS+Agro Thrimshing La AWS+Snow+Camera Yadhi AWS	Punakha Dzongkha Lekilhang Class A Sangdringha Class C Shagana Class C CNR Lobeasa AWS+Agro Thimleygang AWS Thinleygang Class C
Paro Dzongkha Betkha Class C Drueghel Class C Guritsawa Class C+AWS+Snow ParoDSC Class A Chekha AWS+Snow Pangbisa AWS+Agro+Snow	Samdrupjungkhar Dzongkha Gomdar AWS+Agro Jomchhangkha AWS+Class C Orong AWS Phuntshohang AWS Airing Class C
Pemagatse Dzongkha Dechening Class C Dungmain Class C Nanglam Class C Pemagatse Class A Yurung AWS+Class C Dechening AWS	Samtse Dzongkha Samtse NIE AWS+Agro+Class C Sibsoo Class A Tendu Class A Dorokha AWS

Sarpang Dzongkha Chuzergang AWS+Agro Bhar Class A Jigmeholing AWS+Class C Mougang AWS Sarjang AWS+Class C Babasa AWS+Class A	Thimphu Dzongkha Biem ina AWS Begana Class C Khuzhughen AWS+Agro Gidokom Class C Lingshi AWS+Snow MoEA Office Class C Babasa AWS+Class A
Trashigang Dzongkha Bumdeling AWS+Class C Barsham Class C Doksum Class C Trashigang Class A+AWS Tshenkhata Class C Tarpheh AWS+Snow Thragom AWS+Agro+Class C	Trongsa Dzongkha Bijzam Class C Ghendelji Class C Kuengarabten Class C Langthel Class C Trongsa Class A Dam Colony AWS Simphu AWS Tongtongphay AWS Tsangkha AWS+Agro

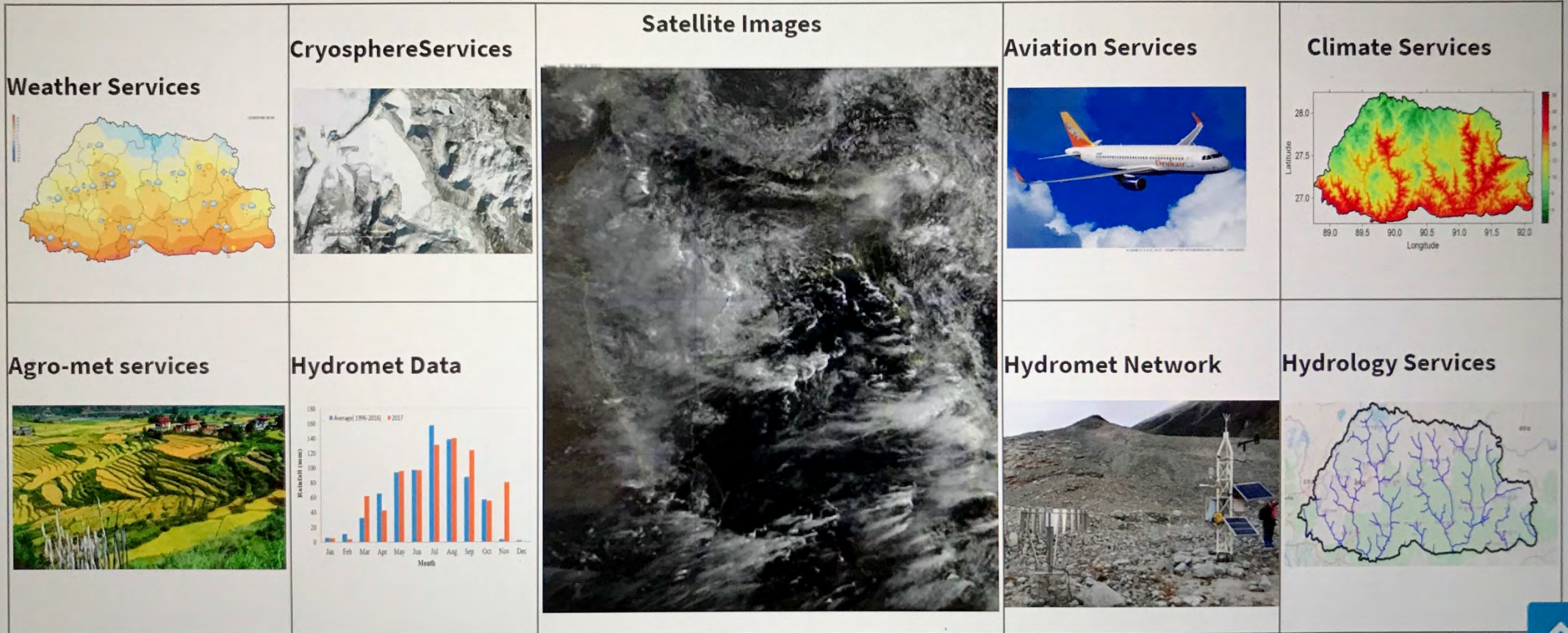
Tsirang Dzongkha Dampchu Class A Mendregang Class C Tairangtoe Class C Mendregang AWS+Agro Tairangtoe AWS	Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkha Bajo AWS Gaselo Class C+AWS+Agro Prelaha AWS+Snow Phojikha Class C+AWS+Snow Kamichhu Class C Nobding Class C Pelika Class C Samtengang Class C WangdueRnRRR Class A and AWS
Zhemgang Dzongkha Bull Class C Trongsa Class A Parbang AWS+Class C Shingkar Class C Tingtibi Class C Yehlaptsa Class C Zhemgang AWS+Class A	



Current Hydro-met Services and Products

Our Products and Services Quick View

Our Products and Services Quick View



WEATHER FORECASTING

72 Hours Weather forecasting

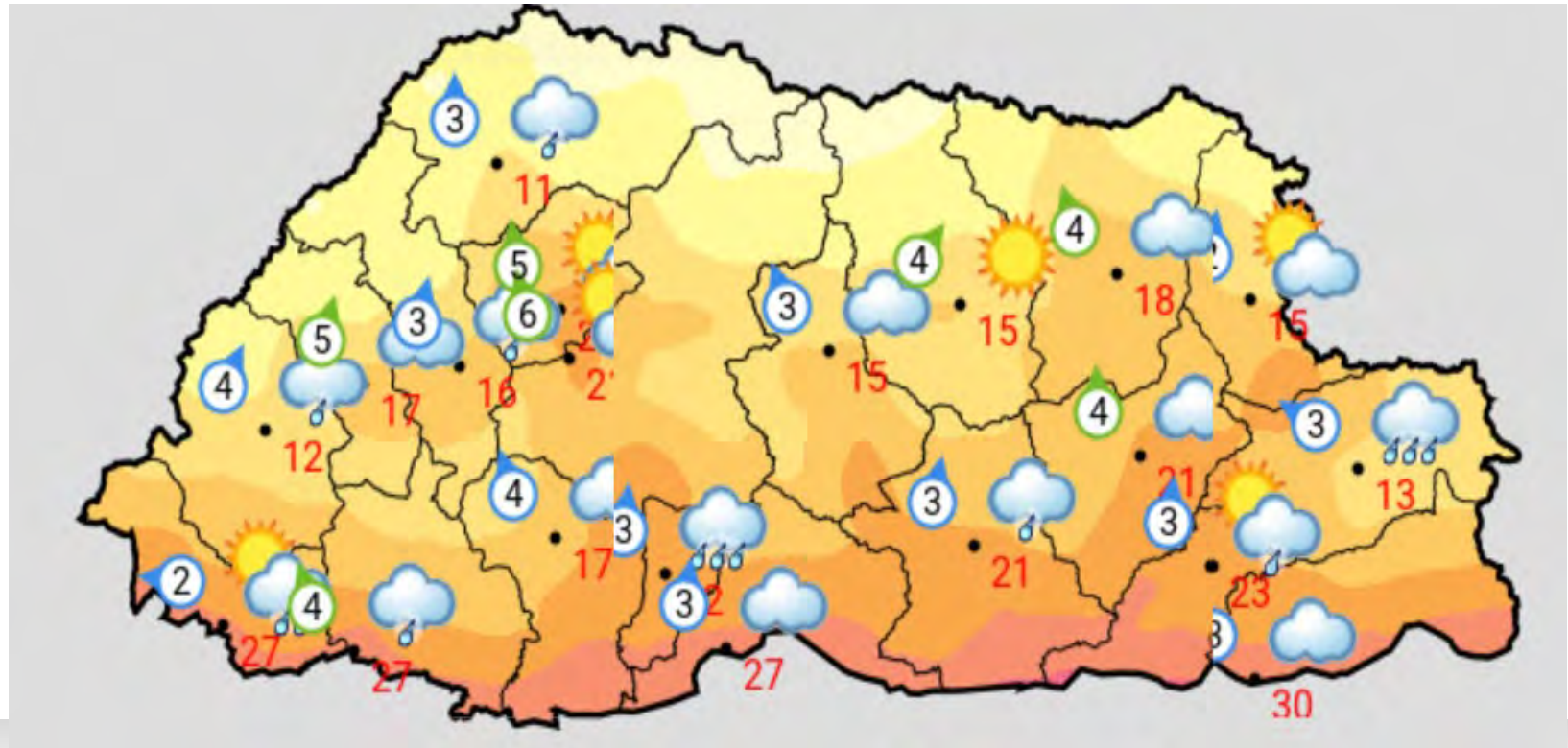
3 DAYS FORECAST			JUL 30	JUL 31	AUG 01
	Max: 29 °C Min: 15 °C		Max: 26 °C Min: 15 °C		Max: 29 °C Min: 14 °C
Gasa		Bumthang		Trongsa	
	Max: 23 °C Min: 13 °C		Max: 25 °C Min: 15 °C		Max: 25 °C Min: 16 °C
Tsirang		Wangdue		Punakha	
	Max: 27 °C Min: 17 °C		Max: 31 °C Min: 21 °C		Max: 32 °C Min: 22 °C
Dagana		Zhemgang		Chhukha	
	Max: 27 °C		Max: 25 °C		Max: 26 °C



Weather forecasting system

WEATHER FORECASTING

Daily Weather forecasting

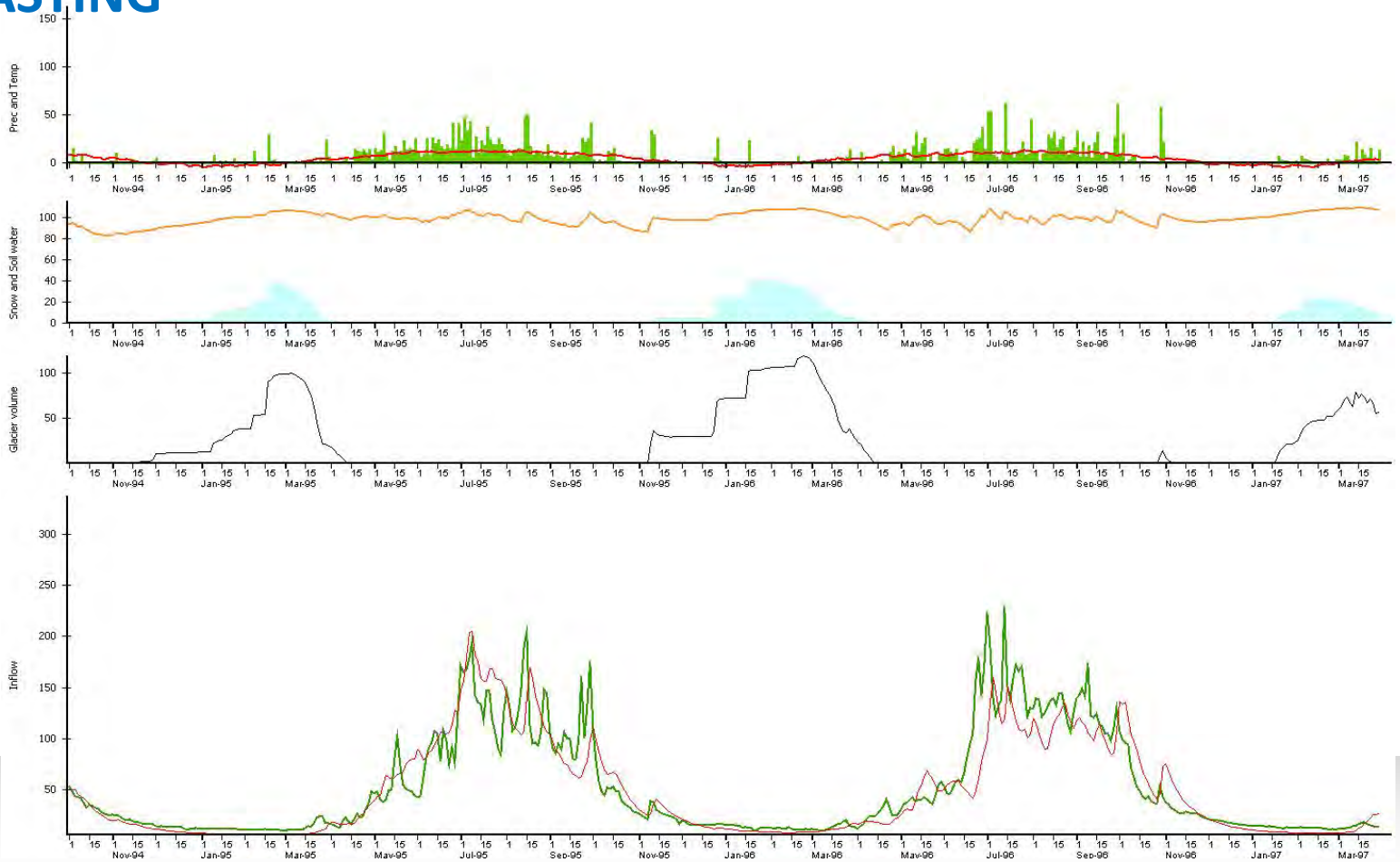


Daily Weather forecast



FLOW & FLOOD FORECASTING

Flow and Flood forecasting system piloted



Flow forecast using HBV

Early Warning Systems (GLOF and Rainstorm)

Early Warning systems in three Basins



4 Lakes in Lunana

3 siren stations in Lunana village

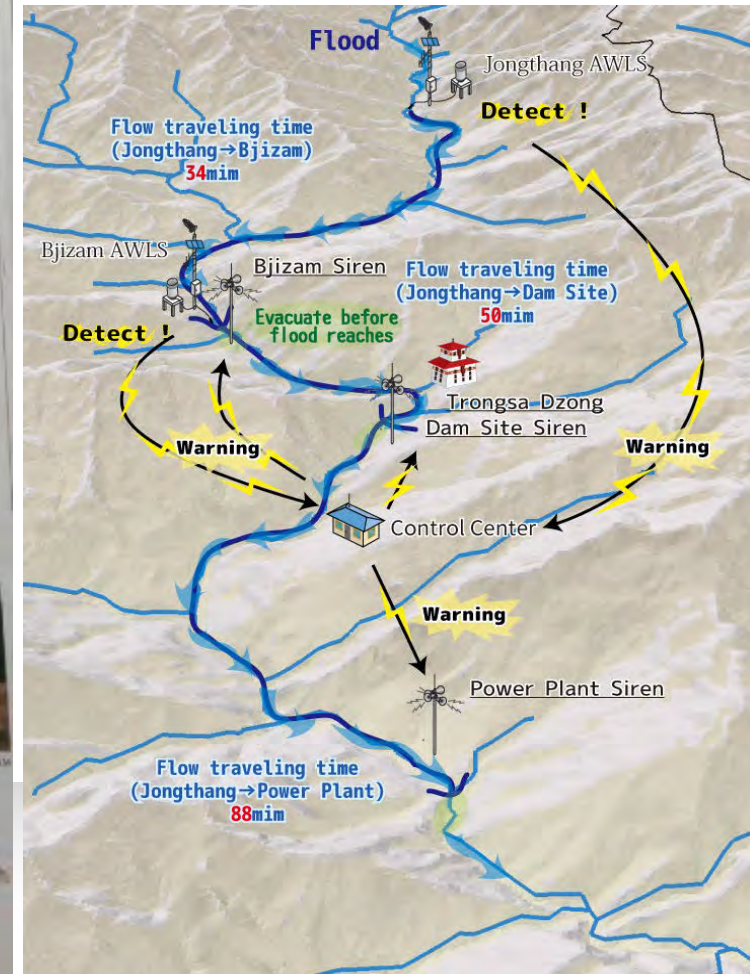
2 AWS/AWLS in Dangsa and Thanza

14 Siren stations in Punkaha Wangdue valley

GLOF Early Warning system in Punatshangchu Basin, Western Bhutan

Early Warning Systems (GLOF and Rainstorm)

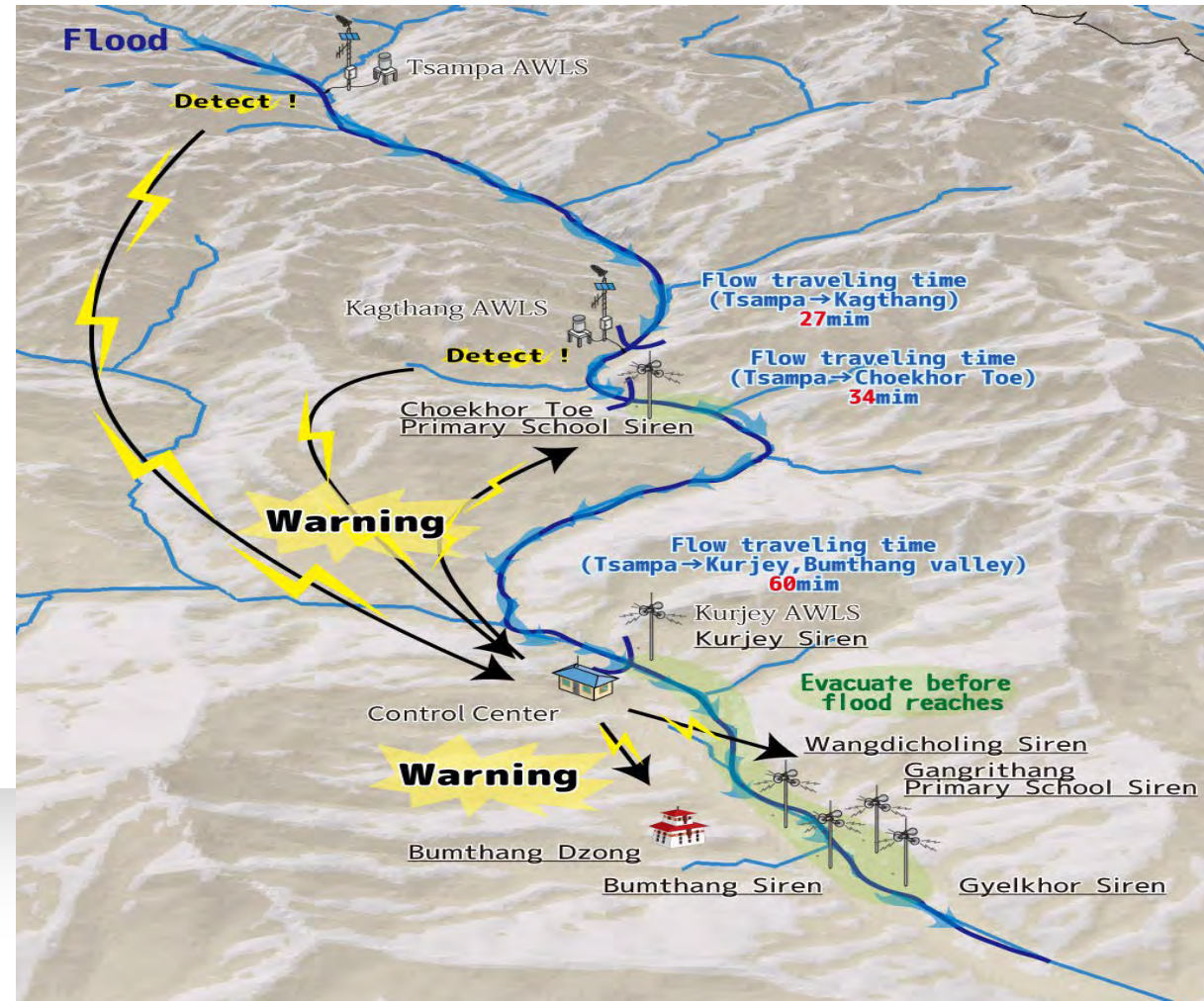
Early Warning systems in three Basins



GLOF and Rainstrom Early Warning system in Mangdechhu Basin, Central Bhutan

Early Warning Systems (GLOF and Rainstorm)

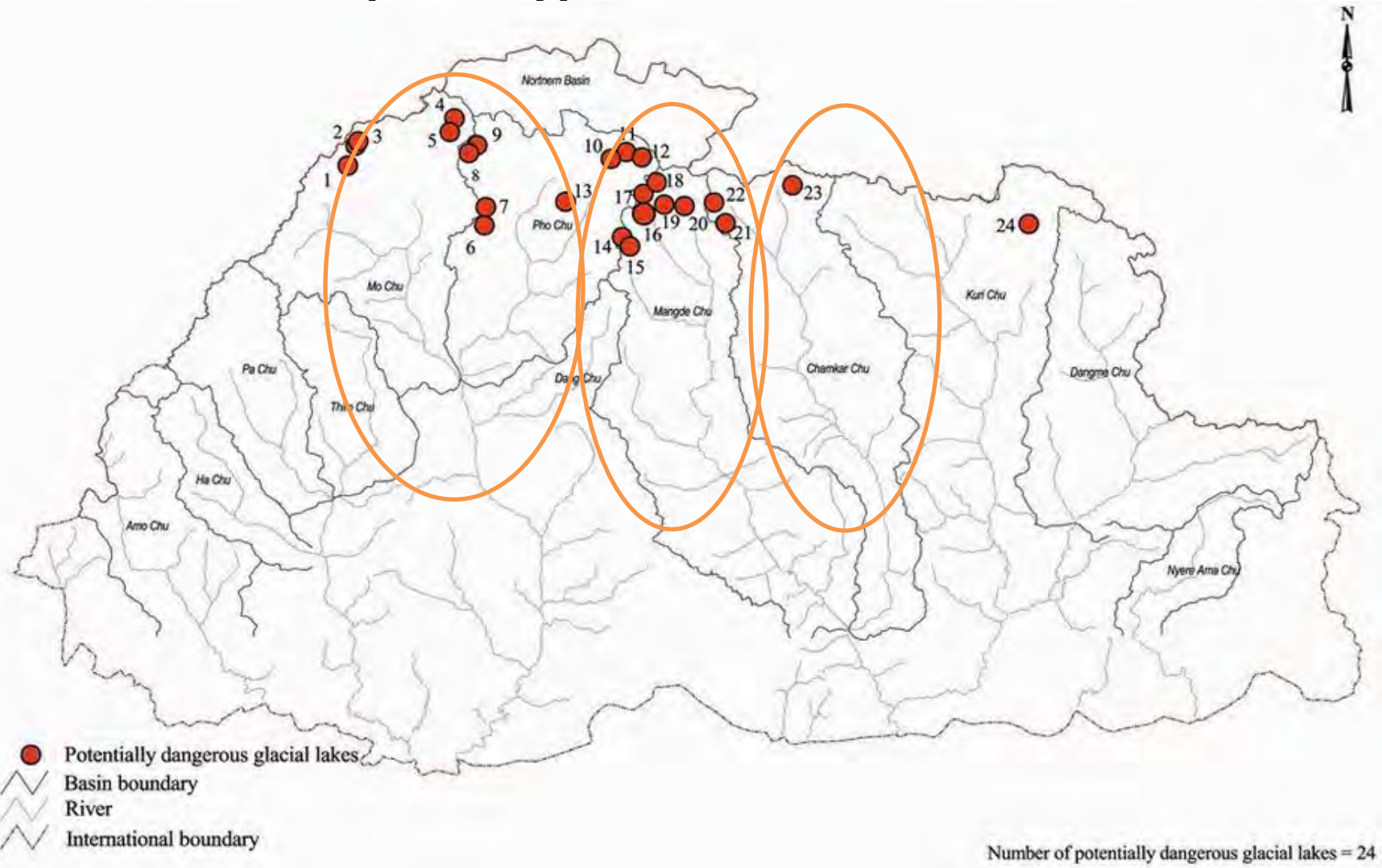
Early Warning systems in three Basins

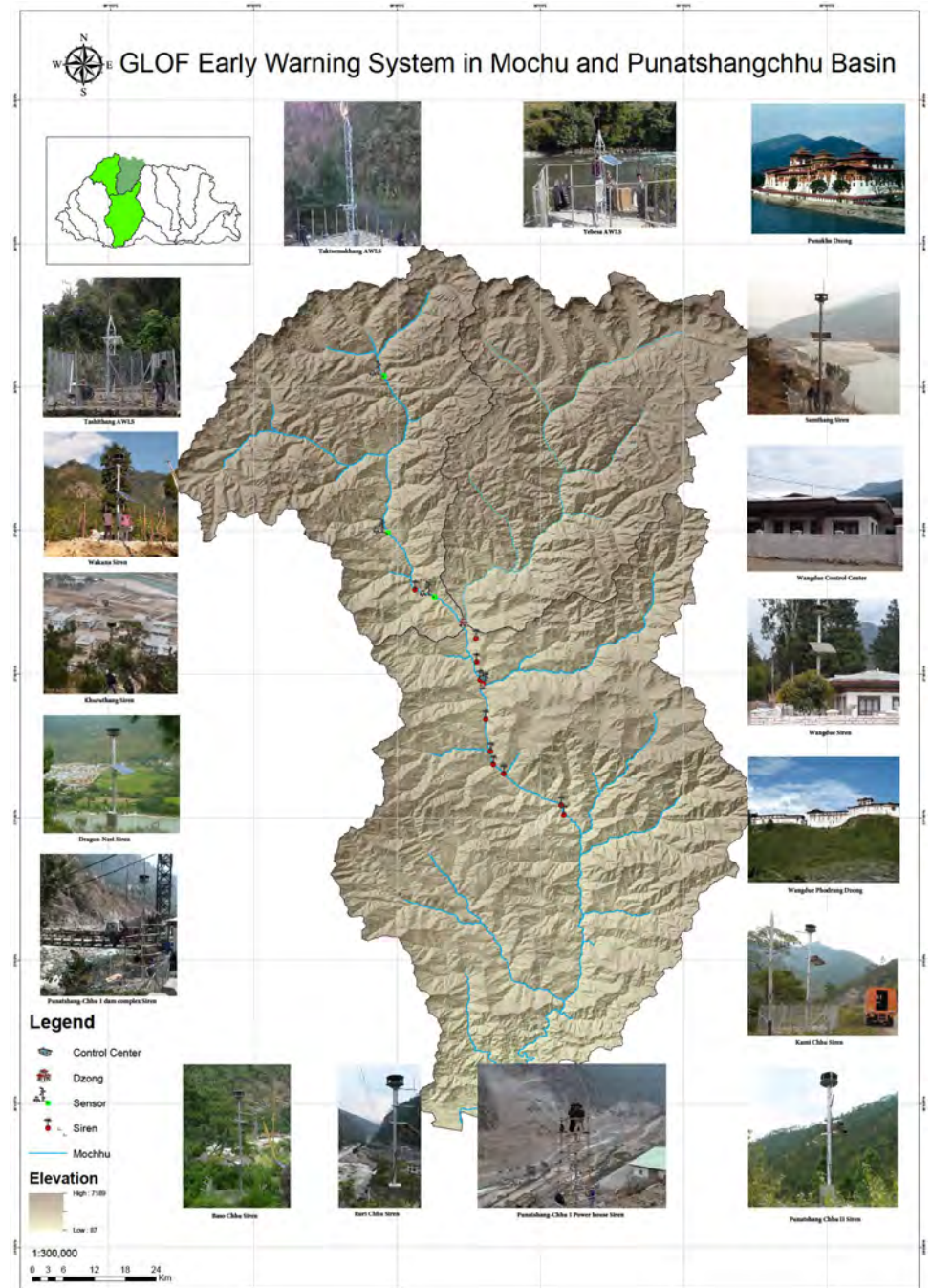
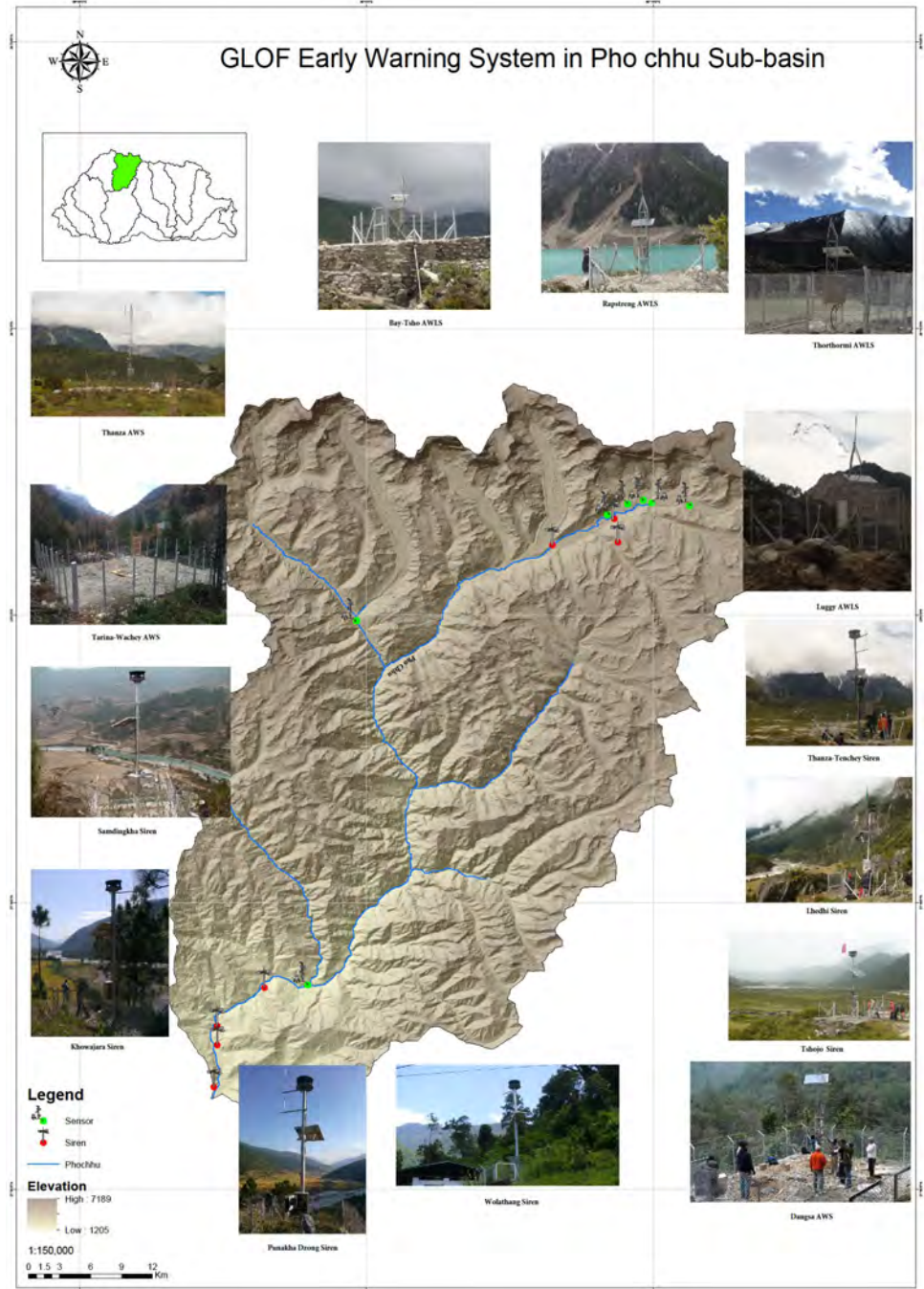


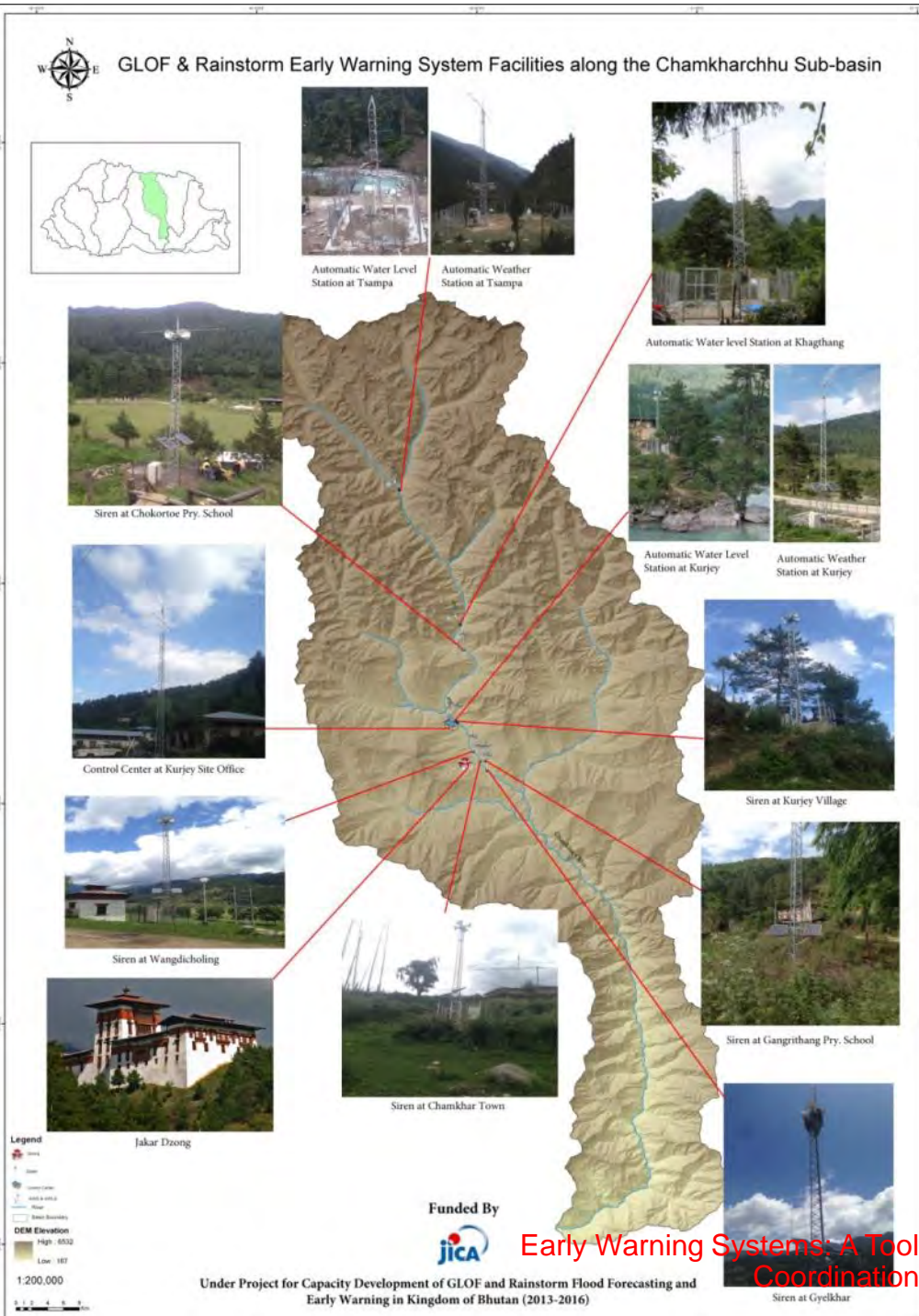
GLOF and Rainstrom Early Warning system in Chamkhar chhu Basin, Bumthang, Central Bhutan



Potentially Dangerous Glacial Lakes







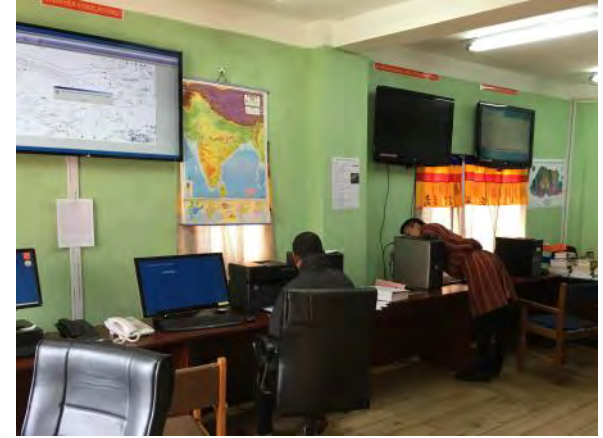
Early Warning Systems: A Tool for Coordination



24/7 National Weather and Flood Warning Center (NWFWC), NCHM



Satellite image receiver
(HimawariCast)



2nd floor:
Weather forecasting room/
GTS/MSS Operation room



Ground floor:
Day-care center

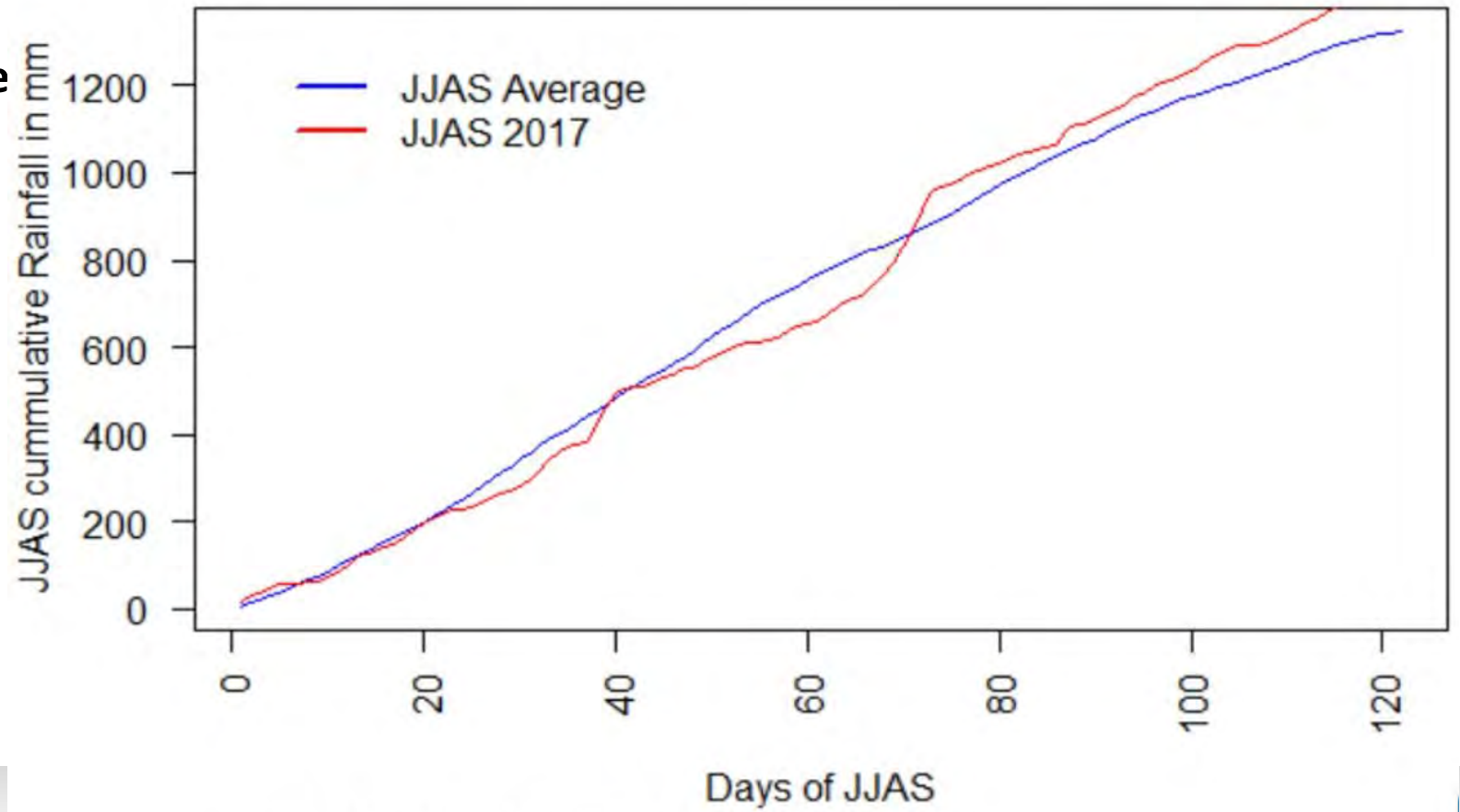


1st floor:
flood monitoring & warning room,
emergency meeting room



Climate Services

Improved climate service



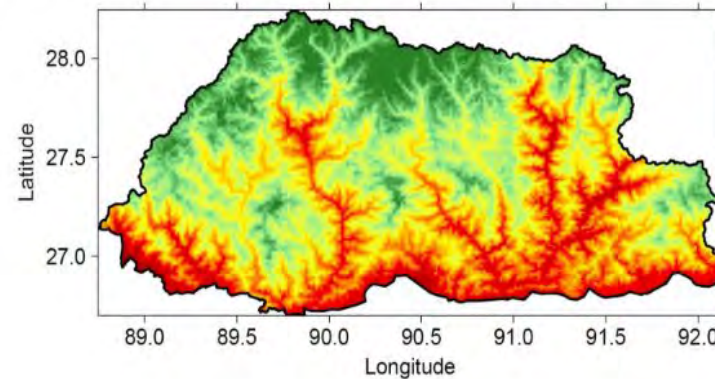
June July August September(JJAS) cumulative rainfall (Area average)

Monsoon monitoring

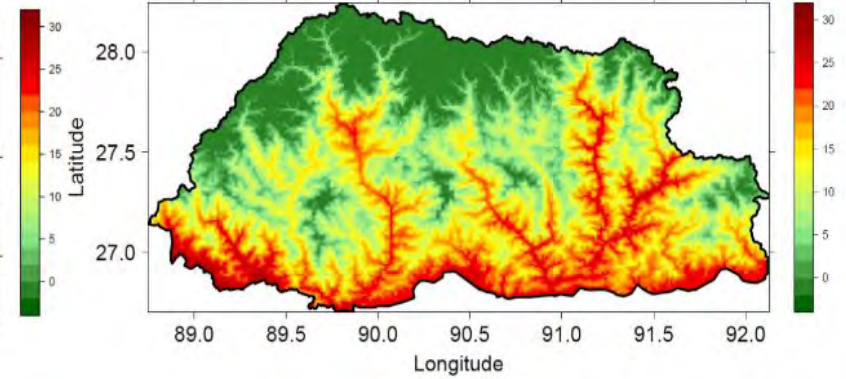
Improved Climate Services

climate services

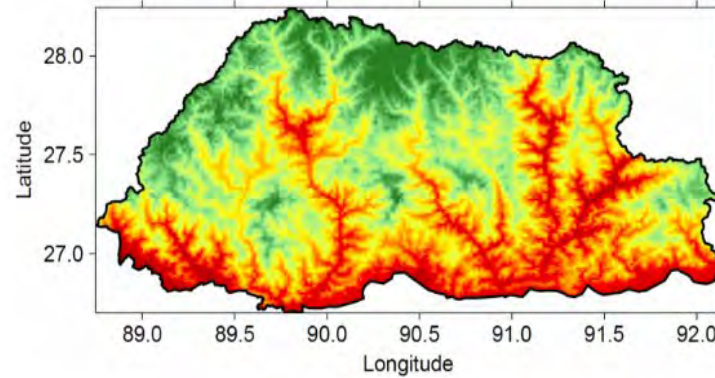
MONTHLY MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF BHUTAN, 2017



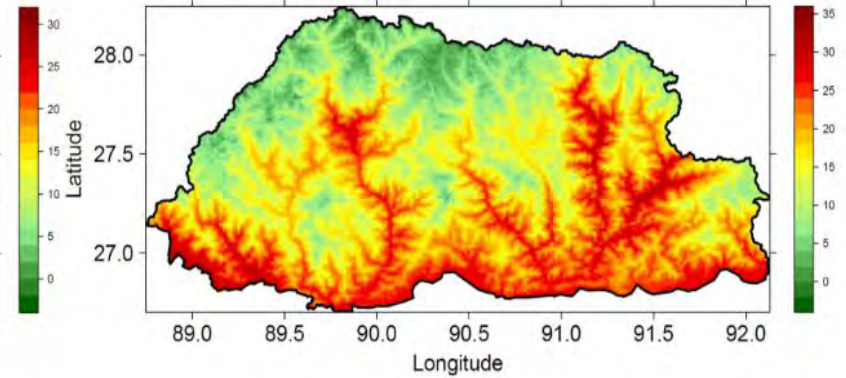
January



February



March



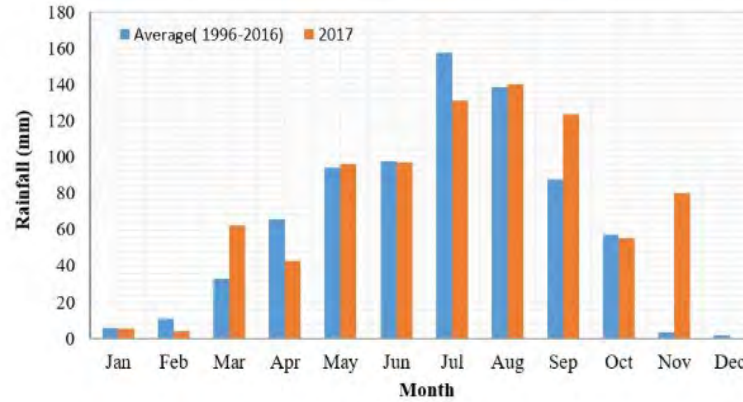
April

Temperature monitoring

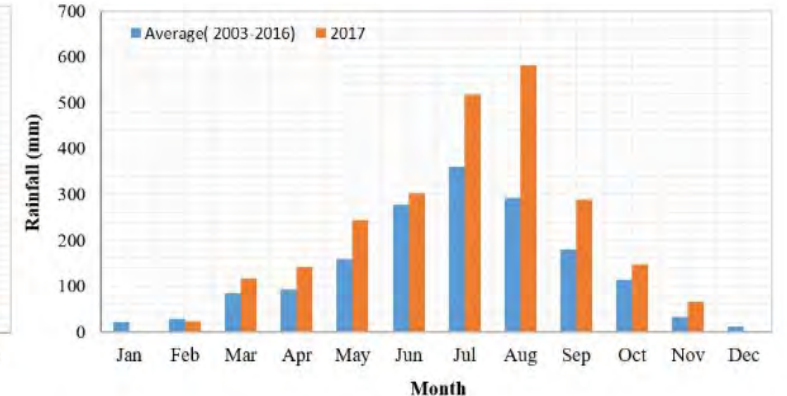
Improved Climate Services

climate services

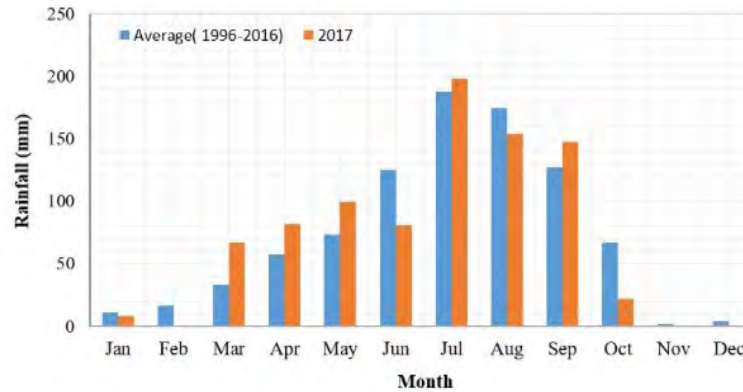
STATIONWISE 2017 MONTHLY RAINFALL WITH AVERAGE RAINFALL



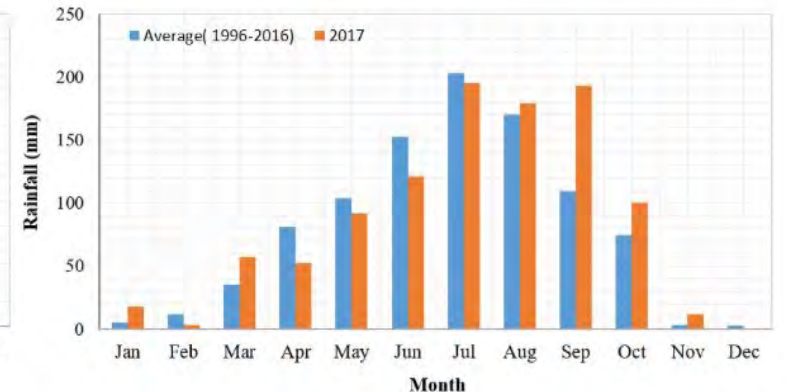
Bumthang



Gasa



Haa



Mongar

Rainfall monitoring



Glacier monitoring

- ✓ Mass Balance (surface lowering, mass gain or mass loss)
- ✓ Status of Glacier snout (Retreating or Advancing)
- ✓ Status of Glacial lakes (Potentially Dangerous Glacial Lakes)
 - Lake Bathymetry
 - GLOF Risk Assessment

- ✓ **Water Resource Assessment**
 - Contribution of melt water to surface runoff

 - Snow
 - Snow cover
 - Snow Water equivalent

Cryosphere Monitoring Program

Thana Glacier



Type: Clean type

Area: 3.0 km²

Location: Coordinates:

Latitude: 28° 1'17.90"N

Longitude: 90°36'39.16"E

Elevation: 5340m a.s.l

Maximum Elevation: 5600m a.s.l

Minimum Elevation: 5250m a.s.l

Basin: Headwater of Chamkhar Chhu, Manas Basin

Initial Survey: 2013

Status of Study: Ongoing

Gangjula Glacier



Type: Clean type

Area: 0.3 km²

Location: Coordinates:

Latitude: 27°56'24.17"N

Longitude: 89°56'53.70"E

Elevation: 5145m a.s.l

Maximum Elevation: 5200m a.s.l

Minimum Elevation: 4900m a.s.l

Basin: Headwater of Pho Chhu, Punatsang Chhu basin.

Initial Survey: 2004

Status of Study: Ongoing

Identified Benchmark Glaciers

Hazards and Vulnerability in Bhutan

- a. Floods
 - GLOF
 - Flash Floods
 - LDOF
- b. Windstorm / Cyclones
- c. Landslides
- d. Forest Fires
- e. Earthquake
- f. Epidemics, pests and diseases:



Flash Flood Impacts



Flash Flood: Pasakha August 2000

Photo Courtesy @ Karma Dupcha, 2000



Flash Flood: Pasakha August 2000

Photo Courtesy @ Karma Dupcha, 2000



Flash Flood: Intake of Ranjung Power Plant destroyed 2004

Photo Courtesy @ Karma Dupcha, 2004



2004 Flash Flood Eastern Bhutan

Photo Courtesy @ Kuensel

Risks and Vulnerability



Bumthang Domestic Airport



Image courtesy of Drukair



Agriculture land



Monuments



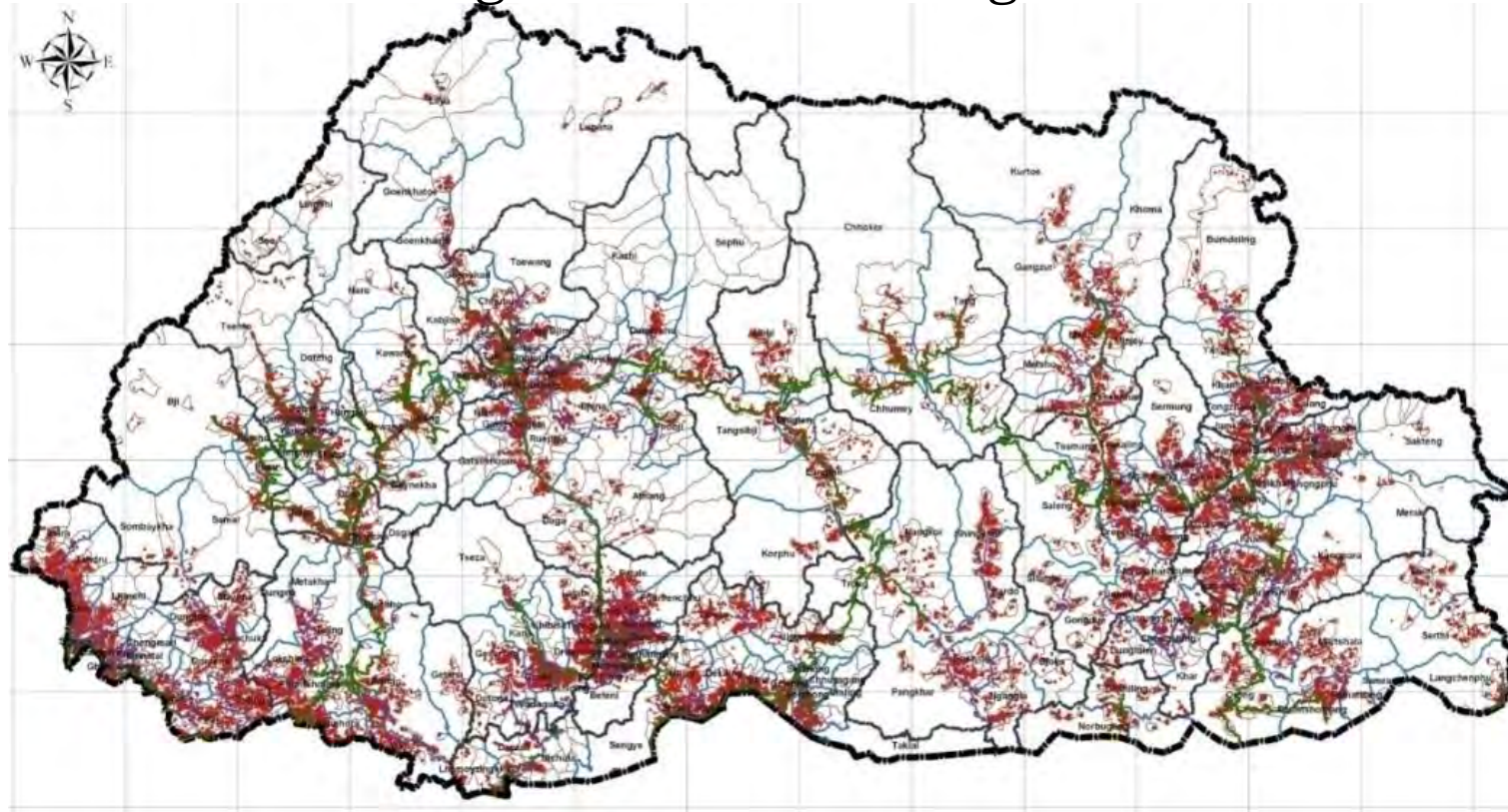
Hydropower Plants



26 6 2008

Flooding Risks

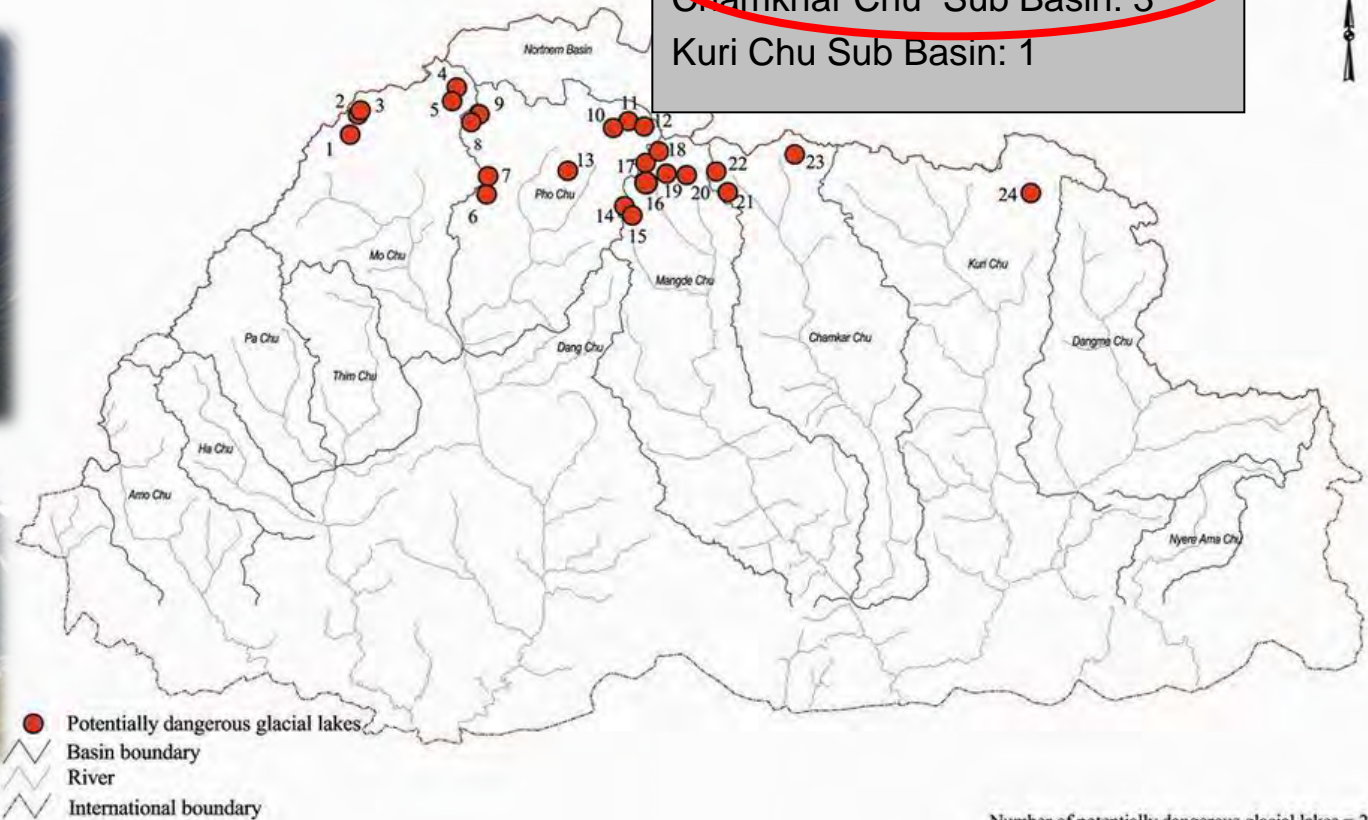
- Flooding is a recurrent phenomenon, especially during the monsoon season.
- Infrastructure (urban areas, hydropower plants, roads, airports, etc) and most of the settlements, fertile agricultural land are located along the valleys.
- **Over 70 percent of the settlements are located along the main drainage basins and are therefore at high risk from flooding.**



Map : Settlement point data of Bhutan (NSB, 2005)

Potentially dangerous glacial lakes of Bhutan

Pho Chu Sub Basin : 9
Mo Chu Sub Basin : 5 **14**
Mangde Chu Sub Basin: 7
Chamkhar Chu Sub Basin: 3 **10**
Kuri Chu Sub Basin: 1



Out of **2674** glacial lakes, **25** has been identified as potentially dangerous lakes.

Source: DGM & ICIMOD publication

Major hydro-met induced disasters in last 25 Years

- Six major events :
 - the 1994 Lugye GLOF,
 - the 2000 monsoon floods in Phuentsholing,
 - the 2004 eastern Bhutan monsoon floods,
 - the 2009 floods induced by Cyclone Aila,
 - the 2015 Lemthang Glacier Lake outburst flood, and
 - the 2016 Southern Bhutan monsoon floods.
 - -----

1994 GLOF Impact downstream



Punakha Dzong three days after the disaster of 1994. Also shown is the confluence of the Phochu and the Mochu below the Dzong and scars of the back flow water after it had joined the Mochu and dammed the flow above the Dzong. (Phuntso Norbu 1994)



Photo Courtesy @



Scars of 1994 outburst: One woman and her two kids washed away by the flood from this house

28 June, 2015 GLOF from Mochhu

- Outburst of Lemethang Tsho (*Mo-gl/200*) located at the base of Ganchen Tag Mountain, head water of Mochhu



Photo Source JDNP Staff(Gasa Dzongkhag)

Flash Floods Impact



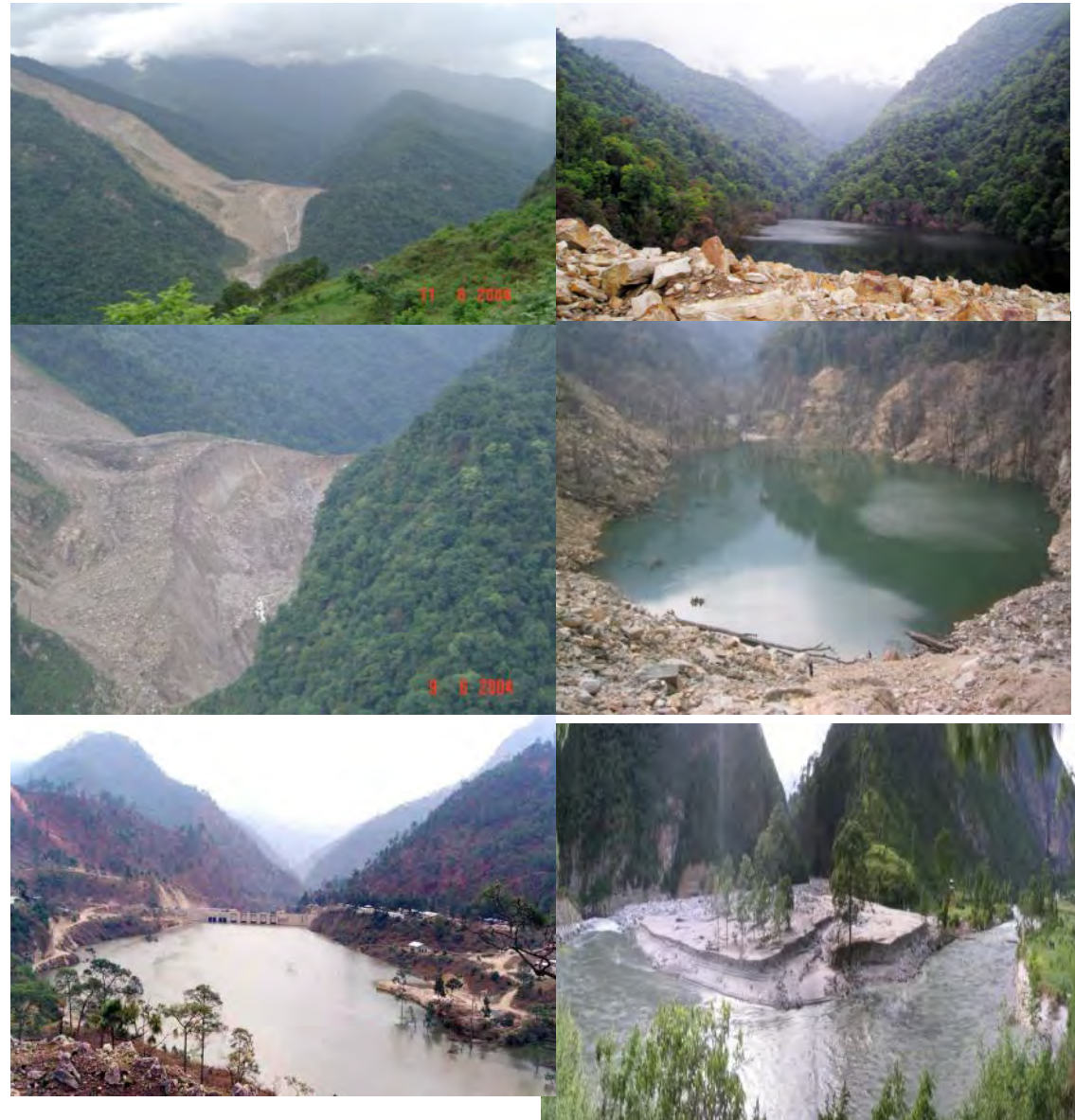
Thimchhu flood during cyclone Aila May 2009

Early Warning Systems: A Tool for Mitigation and Coordination

Landslide Dam Outburst Flood (LDOF)

Tsatichhu 2004

- ✓ Landslide Dam was formed in September 2003
- ✓ Dam burst its banks in July 2004 releasing about 6000 cubic meters per second.
- ✓ Monitoring and Early warning system safe 60 MW Kurichhu Hydropower Plant down stream





Mochhu Landslide Dam

- Formed on 23 August 2012 after 21 June 2012 Mochhu Flood,

Photo Courtesy @ Karma Dupchu, 2012

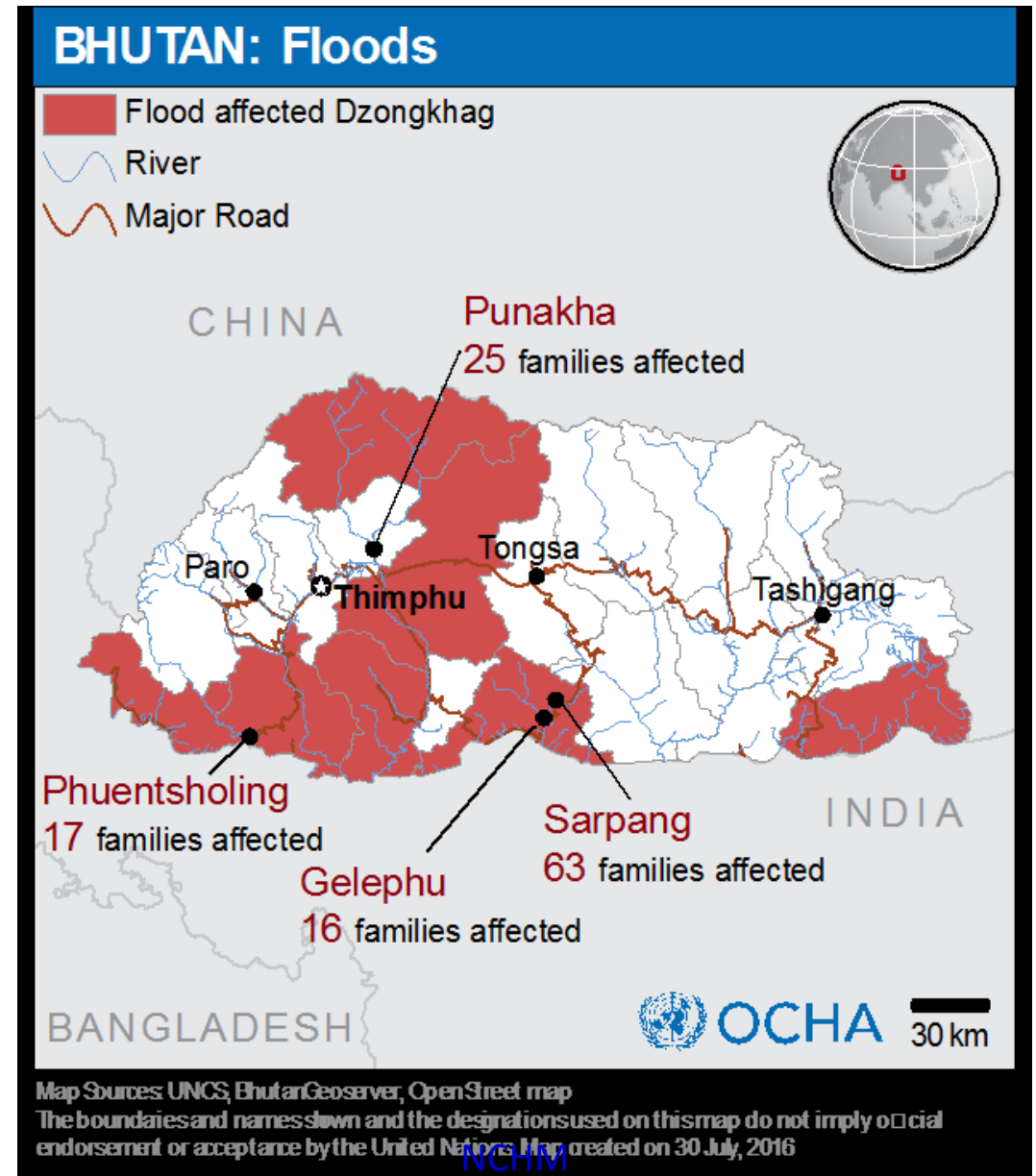




Flash Flood July 2016

- 63 in Sarpang Market (21 of which have been relocated);
- 16 in Gelephu (two of which have been relocated);
- 17 in Phuentsoling;
- 25 in Punakha; and the remainder in other locations.

07/12/2018



NCHM
National Center for
Hydrology and Meteorology



Challenges and lessons learned

- a. Geographical terrain
- b. Sustainability of observation network and infrastructures;
- c. No dedicated **Center HQ Office and related facilities**
(Calibration lab, Communication etc.)
- d. Limited access to new technologies and its application
- e. **Limited Professional Capacity;**
- f. Difficult to provide reliable weather and hydrological forecast due to natural topography;
- g. Flood/GLOF EWS is based on flood detection system rather than forecasting
- h. Lack of proper database management system
- i. Short time series historical record for climate projection studies
- j. 07/12/2018 Technical cooperation



VISION

Center for Excellence in Hydrology, Meteorology and Cryosphere Science and Services.

GOALS

- a. Improve result-based decision support service for weather incidents and events that threaten lives and livelihoods;
- b. Enhance climate services to understand and adapt to climate-related risks;
- c. Develop capacity to provide integrated and coupled monitoring, detection and forecast services to support assessment and management of water resources and water-related hazards;
- d. Build competence to provide sector-relevant information for socio-economic development, and support development of integrated environmental services to foster healthy communities and ecosystems;
- e. Sustain highly skilled professional workforce equipped with training, tools and infrastructure to fulfil the mission.

MODERNIZATION ROAD MAP

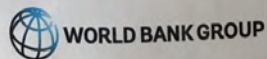
Short term (1-2 years)

Modernizing Weather, Water, and Climate Services:

A Road Map for Bhutan



Prepared in Collaboration between the
Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank



- a. Prepare Strategic Plans based on users needs;
- b. Strengthen sectoral collaboration and partnership;
- c. Strengthen national level organizational profile;
- d. Develop training plan and staffing;
- e. Develop regional collaboration plans (like MoU RIMES)
- f. Develop education and awareness programs for (School, local governments and communities);
- g. Prepare plan to enhance priority monitoring/observation system based on sectoral needs;
- h. Climate Projection of Bhutan



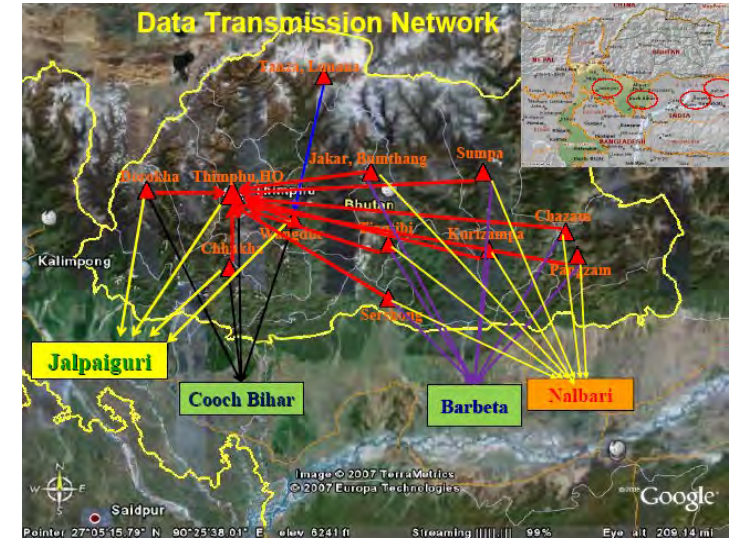
MODERNIZATION ROAD MAP

Medium Term (2-5 Years)

- a. Develop Policy and legal framework (Hydromet Policy)
- b. Strengthen Infrastructure and ICT facilities (NCHM HQ and Facilities)
- c. National Water Resources Assessment;
- d. End-to-end early warning systems;
- e. Enhance Observation network based on the sectoral needs
- f. Establish Regional Offices to enhance service delivery;
- g. Improve Agromet and Aviation meteorological services
- h. Strengthen sector specific climate services (Partnership)
- i. Establish longterm climate and cryosphere monitoring program

International and regional collaboration

- WMO
- IPCC
- With Government of India
 - Extended weather forecast (IMD, MoES)
 - Capacity building (IMD, MoES)
 - Investment and sharing and exchange of hydro-met information for flood forecasting and warning (CWC, MoWR) South Asian Flash Flood Guidance (WMO/IMD..)
- With **ICIMODS** in the areas of : Cryosphere monitoring program, regional flood information exchange of hydro-met data;
- **RIMES** to provide technical backstopping , Capacity building services
- **SAARC/BIMSTEC** Centre on Weather and Climate (BCWC)

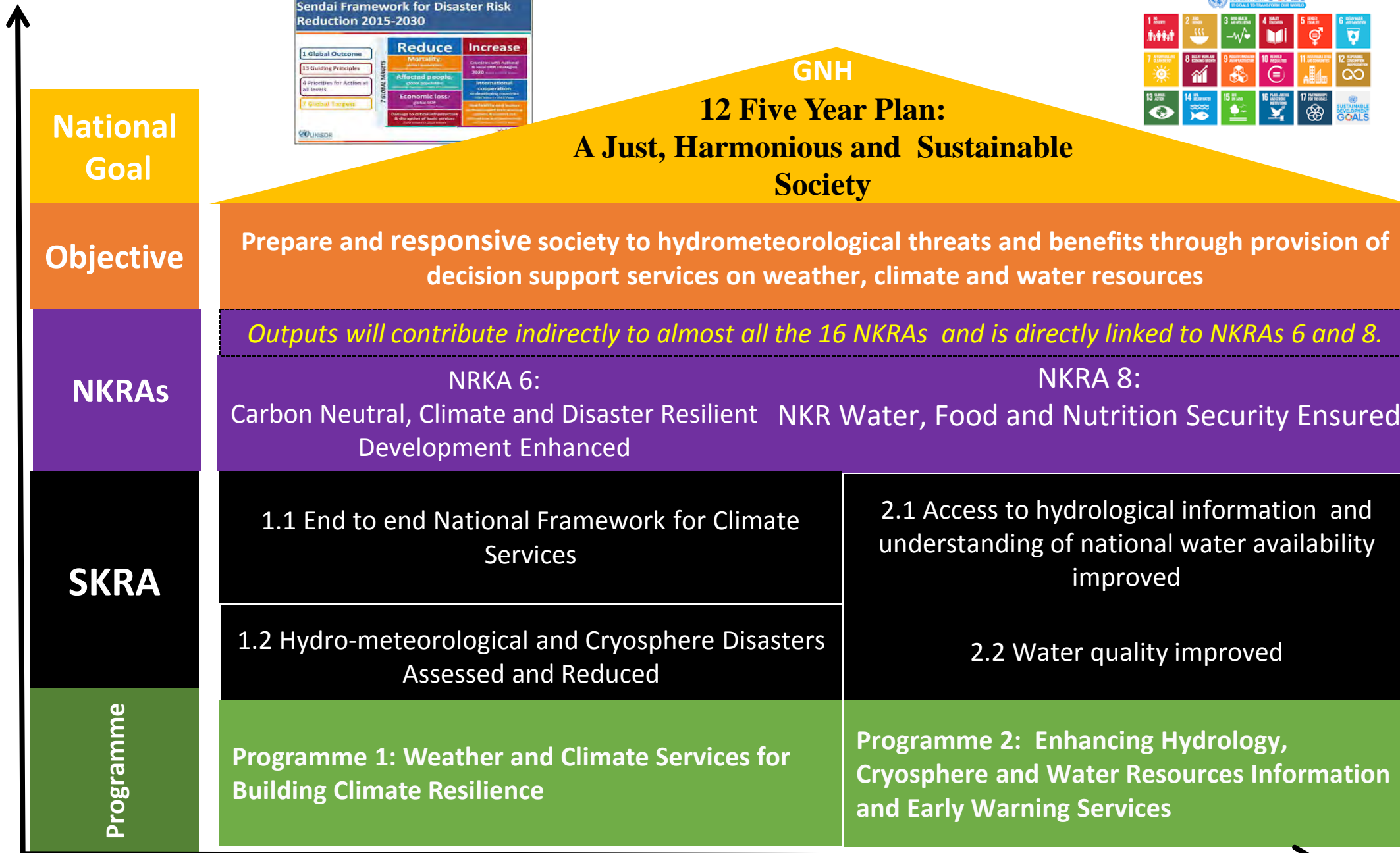
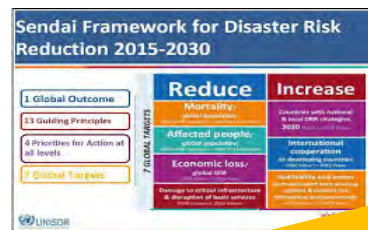




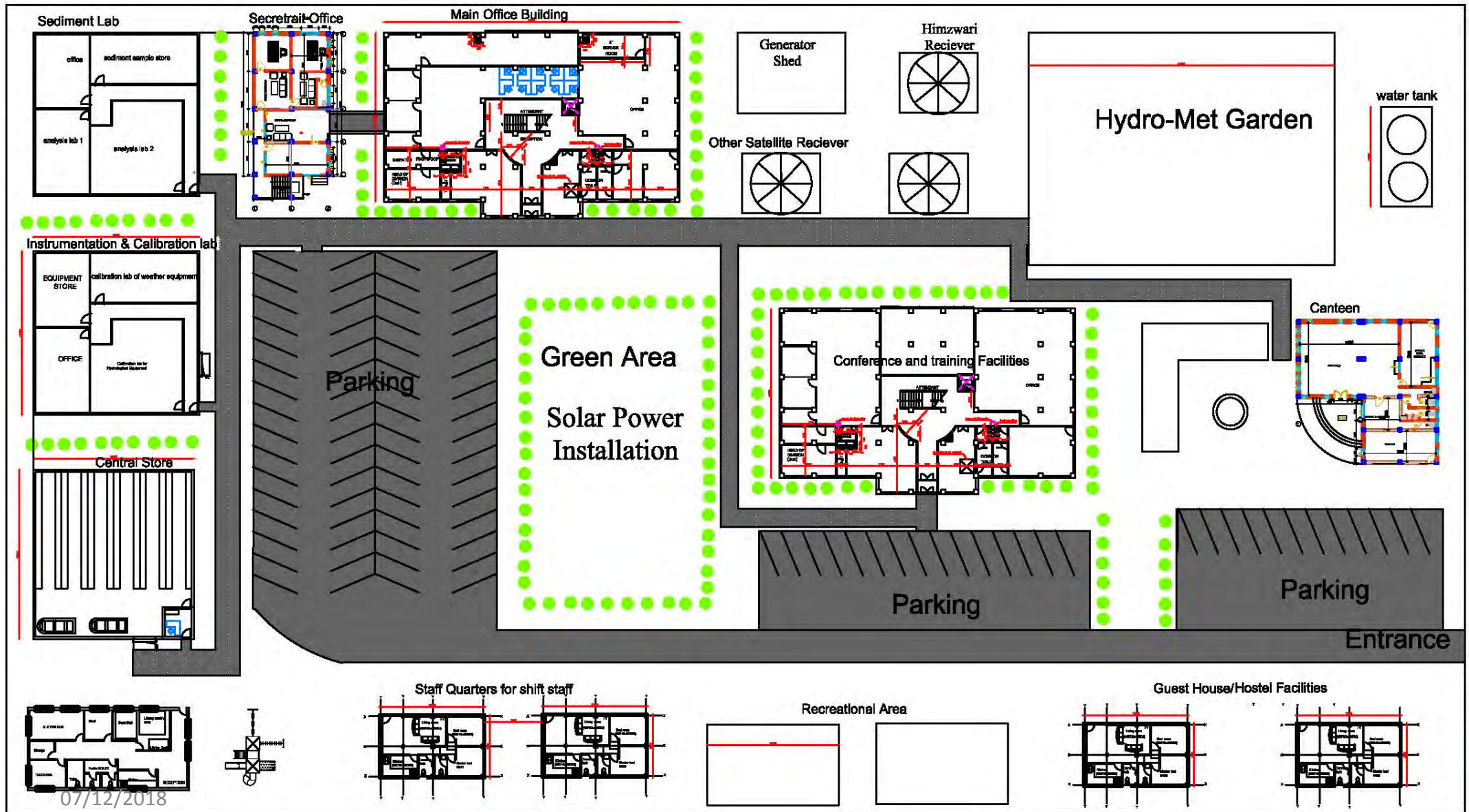
Role of Public/private sector and/or non-governmental entities

- Private sector/NGOS engagement is limited (Supply of equipment's..) but their participation is very important
 - Tour operators
 - Airlines
 - Hydropower Power
 - NGOs
 - Media etc.

Linkages to National Goal (12 FYP-2018-2023)



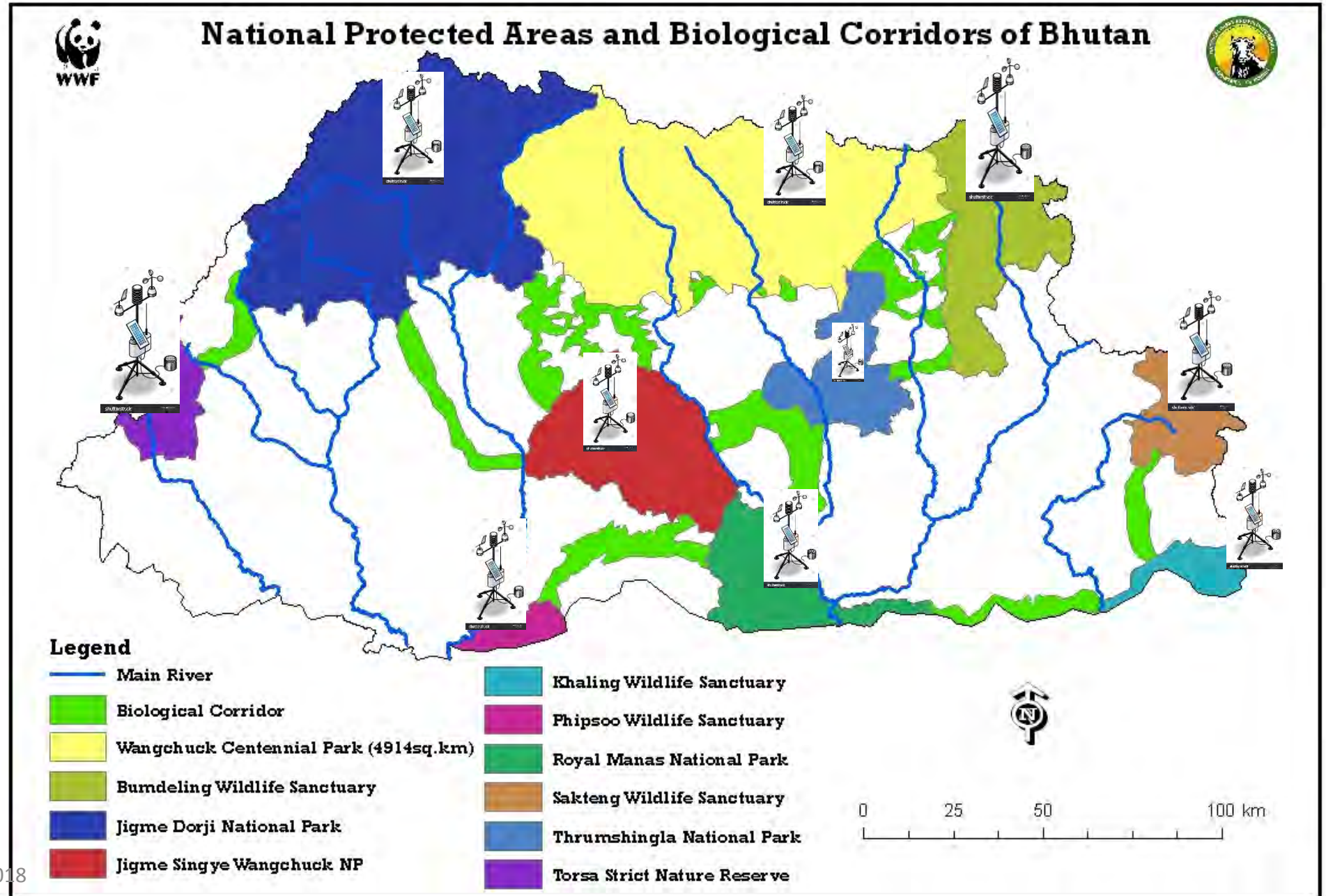
NCHM HQ and Facilities Plan



NCHM HQ and Facilities Plan



Long Term Climate Monitoring Program in Protected Areas

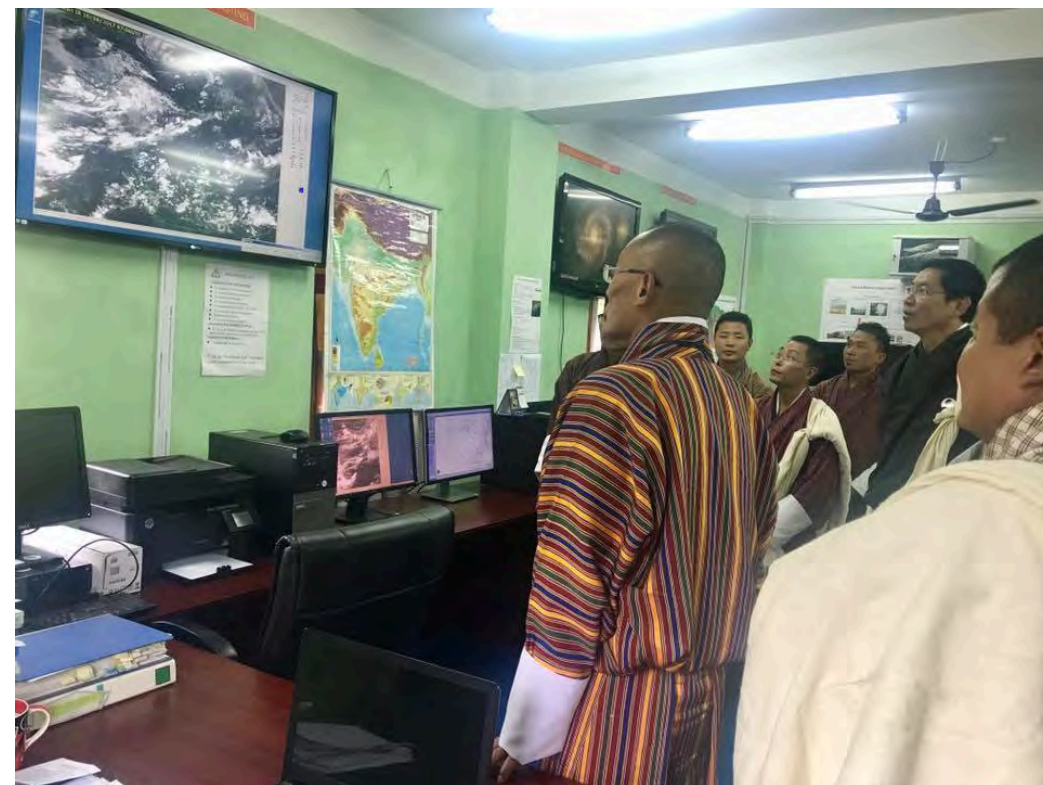


Leadership and Good Governance

Leadership



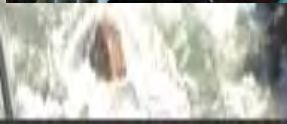
Good Governance



07/12/2018



*“If you want to know your past life, look at your present condition.
If you want to know your future life, look at your present actions.”*
— Padmasambhava





༄༅། རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་ཚུ་དབྱུང་དང་གནམ་གཤིས་རིག་པའི་ལྷན་ཁག།
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HYDROLOGY AND METEOROLOGY
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
POST BOX; 207
THIMPHU: BHUTAN



Thank you very much !

Contact Us at:

Email: kdupchu@nchm.gov.bt

Web Site: www.nchm.gov.bt

Face book:

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalCenterforHydrologyandMeteorology/>



Four Harmonious Friends

- Is one of the most universal and beloved tales in Bhutan. The image of a bird, rabbit, and monkey standing on each other's shoulders on the back of a patient elephant portrays social and environmental harmony. Paintings of the “Four Harmonious Friends” appear in Bhutanese homes and in official and other public buildings.
- As the story goes, the bird finds a seed and plants it. Then, the rabbit waters it, and the monkey fertilizes it. Once the seed sprouts and begins to grow, the elephant protects it. After some time, the small plant grows into a big, beautiful tree full of healthy fruit. By working together and using their individual talents, the four friends are able to reach and enjoy the fruits.

